

## Tennessee State Organization Leadership Links November 2022

Communication: It's amazing how our lives have transformed when it comes to how news or information is exchanged either through face-to-face, a phone call, text, email, social media, and many other types of interactions. There are four main types of basic communication styles: passive, aggressive, passive-aggressive, and assertive. DKG members typically display an assertive communication style in which they are able to express their own needs, ideas, and feelings while considering the needs of others. Our state editors and state webmasters have effectively demonstrated an assertive communication style as they have presented the *DKG Tennessee News* (Formerly known as *Xi State News*) and the Tennessee State website. Doris Ann Hendrix served as state editor from 1981-1995, an impressive 14 years, followed by Dr. Jensi Souders. Dr. Souders began as state editor during her presidency 1995-1997. During Doris Ann's tenure as editor, the *Xi State News* became a highly acclaimed publication across the Society, cram-packed with features on members as well as business of the state. The first official state webmaster was Judy Cross, 2005. There were other ladies such as Dr. Dovie Kimmins and Dr. Linda Eller, who worked on the technology committee and the state webpage in its early stages. Current state editor and state webmaster are Michelle Steen and Sherrie Collins. To learn more about the TNSO history, go to [www.tndkg.org/About Us/History](http://www.tndkg.org/About Us/History).

### Leadership Development Committee -Waiting List

The Advanced Leadership Seminar, "All Things are Possible with DKG", will take place on March 3-4, 2023, at Montgomery Bell State Park in Burns, Tennessee. Becky Sadowski will be the key presenter. If you have attended the Beginning Leadership Seminar, you may still register. However, members will be placed on a waiting list. Please register with the following link and see additional information listed to the right on the flyer. Becky will be using the book, "The Art of Possibility", by Benjamin Zander. The registration link for the Seminar is: <https://forms.gle/AWiv1yuMTFdYkgev9>.

### DKG Tennessee News November Edition

The November *DKG Tennessee News* is now available for viewing at the state website, [www.tndkg.org/More](http://www.tndkg.org/More). Every member should receive the November *DKG Tennessee News* and the



Doris Ann Hendrix-State Editor  
1981-1995



Dr. Jensi Souders-State Editor  
Judy Cross-First Official State



Michelle Steen-Current State Editor  
Sherrie Collins-Current Webmaster

WE WANT

YOU TO ATTEND

**TNSO  
ADVANCED  
LEADERSHIP SEMINAR**

Becky Sadowski  
Immediate Past International  
DKG President &  
TNSO member will present a book study of  
The Art of Possibility

- MARCH 3 & 4, 2023
- MONTGOMERY BELL STATE PARK IN BURNS, TN
- SEE LEADERSHIP LINKS FOR APPLICATION

**QUESTIONS?  
CONTACT:**  
Dr. Linda Eller  
lseller01@gmail.com

**YOU MUST HAVE ATTENDED A BEGINNING LEADERSHIP SEMINAR**

February *DKG Tennessee News* in the mail. Why not check out the *DKG Tennessee News* now by going to the state website. Please keep in mind that the September and April editions are only available on-line. Chapter members, please print a copy for your members who do not have the internet available. This might be a great time to visit or call upon members in the chapter and take the printed edition to them. State editor, Michelle Steen, has created a flipbook version of the *DKG Tennessee News*. Directions are listed on the website. Thank you, Michelle!

***Inside International Monthly Zooms Hosted by International Leadership and Headquarters Staff  
Tuesday, November 1 at 12:30 p.m. Central Time/1:30 p.m. Eastern Time***

Did you know members are invited to join a monthly Zoom with international leadership and headquarters staff? Look for the link in the rotating feature for “Inside International” on the home page at [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org). The Zoom is held on the first Tuesday each month and will include greetings, Question & Answer sessions, and general information brought to you by staff, administrative board, and international committee members. Zoom will take place at 5:30 p.m. Central Time/6:30 p.m. Eastern Time in December.

**From Pi Chapter’s Newsletter:** “SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT IS: Have I gotten a newsletter from State or International lately? You probably haven’t thought about that. So now that it has been brought to your attention, have you? If you haven’t, you probably need to update your membership information at International. Here’s how: Dkg.org, sign-in with your 6-digit username, then password (if you have trouble, representatives are there to help through chat or you can actually talk to a real person if you call), access the menu in the upper right and then go to MyDKG. While you’re there, look around. Lots of good stuff!”

***Congratulations!!!!***

Wynne Anderson of Alpha Xi Chapter for her photo, Mother’s Colorful Azalea Corner, as being accepted into the DKG Fine Arts Gallery.

Terri Gilbert of Pi Chapter for her acrylic paintings, Colorado Gold and Acadian Dreams, as being accepted into the DKG Fine Arts Gallery.

Mary Jean Darby of Alpha Psi Chapter for being recognized as a Blue Ribbon Educator in Nashville.

***Important Time Dated Information for Chapters November and December***

(Most events may be found on the [www.tndkg.org](http://www.tndkg.org) website under the Calendar.)

***From the State Treasurer Due Date: November 15, 2022***

Reminder to Chapter Treasurers: The IRS Form 990N is due by November 15. This form must be completed online. Please send a copy of the completed form by email or snail mail to Dr. Dianne Anderson. If your treasurer has any questions or concerns--please email or call Dianne Anderson [andersond3851@gmail.com](mailto:andersond3851@gmail.com) or 731-234-7813.

***Bylaws and Rules Committee : Proposed Amendments: Due December 1, 2022***

**Chapter Rules** - Keep submitting Chapter Rules if your chapter rules were due in 2021-2022 and have not been submitted. Submit as soon as possible to Ann Gann [adgann@comcast.net](mailto:adgann@comcast.net) Please refer to the state website [www.tndkg.org](http://www.tndkg.org) /Resources/Bylaws and Rules for new lists of due dates for chapter rules.

**Proposed Amendments** - The committee is also accepting proposed amendments from the membership. The submission form for changes to proposed amendments may be found at [www.tndkg.org](http://www.tndkg.org) /Resources/Bylaws and Rules. Proposed amendments to the Bylaws and Rules may be submitted to Kathleen Benedict [kbbenedict21@yahoo.com](mailto:kbbenedict21@yahoo.com) **no later than December 1, 2022**. Proposed amendments may be submitted by any member, committee, board, or chapter. Any questions, please contact [kbbenedict21@yahoo.com](mailto:kbbenedict21@yahoo.com).

The Bylaws and Rules State Committee will also be reviewing all Bylaws & Rules proposed and passed at the DKG International Convention.

***First Vice-President Marsha Brewer: Chapter Yearbooks Due December 15, 2022***

The Tennessee State Chapter Yearbook Evaluation form and chapter yearbook is due December 15, 2022. Please submit to Marsha Brewer [gnash81@comcast.net](mailto:gnash81@comcast.net) for points towards the Maycie Chapter Excellence Award. The updated templates for chapter yearbooks and the evaluation form for 2022-2023 are now available on the [tndkg.org](http://tndkg.org) website under *Resources/Chapter Forms and Reports*. The template for the chapter yearbook is a guide only and if a chapter would like to use a different form, that is totally acceptable. However, in order to receive Maycie points, a chapter must submit the Chapter Yearbook and the Evaluation form to Marsha Brewer at [gnash81@comcast.net](mailto:gnash81@comcast.net).

***Vision Foundation: Applications for Grants and Awards due December 31, 2022***

The applications for Grants, Awards, and the rubrics for each may be found on the TNSO website under the *Vision Foundation* tab. You may also click on the Calendar as well.

Would you or your chapter like to help TNSO educators conduct educational research and/or special projects for their classroom and help send two TNSO educators to a workshop, seminar, or professional meeting every year? You may contribute to the Vision Foundation. In fact, you can become a visionary by the TNSO Convention by contributing \$125.00 each month (November –June). You may mail your contribution to Dr. Dianne Anderson, TNSO Treasurer or through [venmo@dianne-anderson](mailto:venmo@dianne-anderson). Please see information listed below to register for the **Vision Foundation Virtual Event**.

The Board of the Vision Foundation is also extremely happy to announce the FIRST Diamond Visionary (\$10,000), Miss Doris Ann Hendrix. In honor of this tremendous contribution the Board will now have two Professional Development Awards for \$2000 each.

***State Committee Information and News to Members***

Many of the State Committees have exciting and important information to share for the upcoming biennium. Please find news, links, and attachments to share with members. All forms, deadlines, applications, and rubrics are also posted on the [www.tndkg.org](http://www.tndkg.org) website.

***President to Presidents Meetings 2:30 p.m. (CST)/3:30 p.m. EST: Next Meeting is Sunday, Nov. 20***

President to President (P2P) meetings will occur virtually mostly every third Sunday afternoon. Please save the following dates: Sundays, November 20, December 18, January 15, February 19, March 19, April 16, May 21, June 25. All meeting times will occur at 2:30 p.m. CST/3:30 p.m. EST. A Zoom link along with the agenda will be forthcoming about a week before the meeting.

***Virtual Events***

If you or your chapter would like to present a virtual workshop, please contact TNSO President Dr. Elaine Vaughan, [mevaughan@ortn.edu](mailto:mevaughan@ortn.edu) at any time to schedule for the 2022-2023 year. Please enjoy these virtual workshops with your chapter members, friends, and family members.

***Recordings for Past Virtual Workshops*** (Virtual Workshop Recordings may also be found on the [tndkg.org](http://tndkg.org) website Resources/Virtual Events)

**Virtual Legislative Forum**

**Facilitator: Kay Moss, Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee**

**Thursday, October 20, 7:00 p.m. CST/8:00 p.m. EST**

**Recording Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tsho2ykxuhU>

***November Virtual Events***

**Vision Foundation Virtual Event**

**Facilitators: Vision Foundation Board of Directors**

**Tuesday, November 8, 7:00 p.m. CST/8:00 p.m. EST**

The Vision Foundation will also hold a virtual workshop to assist with filling out the applications and any questions a member may have.

**Registration Link:** <https://forms.gle/ixZxDzoBStnZaReR8>

**Virtual Pumpkin Instapot**

**Presenter: Sherrie Collins**

**Tuesday, November 22, 7:00 p.m. CST/8:00 p.m. EST**

Sherrie Collins, Tennessee's own "Pioneer Woman" will WOW us with everything pumpkin in this Instapot cooking presentation.

**Registration:** <https://forms.gle/FJd64G1dL13VH92Y6>

***Tennessee State Scholarships: Due February 1, 2023***

The Tennessee State Scholarship Application is now available, so members are encouraged to start their application process. All parts of the application must be submitted electronically to Donna Campbell [campbelld1013@gmail.com](mailto:campbelld1013@gmail.com) no later than **February 1, 2023**, though earlier submissions are more than welcome (please!). Applications may be found on the state website under *Resources/Scholarship and Grant Applications*. Please contact a member of the scholarship committee if you have questions.

***Legislative Education and Legislation February and March 2023***

Beginning in 1979, TNSO DKG has recognized the value of communicating directly with our state and federal legislators, particularly in support of our students and teachers. Members of

the committee will host the Legislative Symposium in February and the Legislative Prep Rally followed by the Day on the Hill in March.

Tentative dates for the Legislative Symposium, Prep Rally and Day on the Hill are the following:

1. Virtual Legislative Symposium: Thursday, February 23, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. Central Time/8:00 p.m. Eastern Time.
2. The Prep Rally will be an in-person event the night before the Day on the Hill. Tentative dates are March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Location TBD.

Our state legislators appreciate our communications with them. Our participation is necessary as we model effective participation to our students, schools, and communities. Please join the State Legislative Committee as we keep moving forward “From the Heart”.

### ***Legislative Due March 15, 2023***

**Legislative Award:** The Legislative Committee is also offering the Legislative Award for the 2022-2023 year. The form may be found on the state website *Resources/Chapter Forms & Reports*. Please submit form to Karla Mullins ([kmullins55@gmail.com](mailto:kmullins55@gmail.com)).

### ***State Projects: Due February 28, 2023***

#### **Tennessee State Organization 2022-2023 Essay Contest**

The State Projects Committee is pleased to share the new 2022-23 essay prompts for our Tennessee State Contest. Last year’s contest entries came from students across the state. Approximately 20 DKG chapters sponsored these students. We hope to see even more chapters involved this year! Share the prompts with schools in your areas and be sure that your chapter recognizes any students you sponsor. Everyone can not be in the top three, but we want to recognize students for their willingness to participate and encourage them to continue to participate in the future.

This year we are adding an elementary prompt for students in grades 3-5. The prize money for the elementary students will be \$75.00 for 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$50.00 for 2nd place, and \$25.00 for 3rd place. The timeframe for the elementary will be the same as for the middle and high school. To find the prompts and other information for middle school, high school, and elementary school, go to [www.tndkg.org](http://www.tndkg.org) *About Us/Essay Contest*. The contact person of each sponsoring DKG chapter should send essays and cover sheets to Fran Gregory, [fehgregory@gmail.com](mailto:fehgregory@gmail.com) by February 28, 2023. Please send any questions to Fran Gregory, [fehgregory@gmail.com](mailto:fehgregory@gmail.com).

### ***Awards***

The Awards Committee is pleased to announce that the Maycie Award for Chapter Excellence (***Due April 1, 2023***), Order of the Rose, and Rosebud applications (***Due March 15, 2023***) are all available now on the state website, [www.tndkg.org](http://www.tndkg.org), under *Resources/Chapter Forms and Reports*.



The Awards Committee is looking forward to recognizing up to 12 ladies who have contributed to their chapters, communities, state organization, and international with the Order of the Rose Award, and one newer member, the Rosebud Award who is starting her journey of contributing to her local, state, and potentially the international organization by demonstrating excellence and involvement, with the Rosebud Award.

Good news! The Maycie Award for Chapter Excellence form is now available on excel and allows for automatic calculation of points. Once the form is downloaded and saved, calculations automatically take place correctly. A special shout out to Vikki Burns, on the Awards Committee, who made this happen! A PDF version of the Maycie Award for Chapter Excellence may also be downloaded and printed if the Excel version is not working.

### ***Communications and Marketing Due March 15, 2023***

Is your chapter working on Marketing Award points for the Maycie Chapter Excellence Award for 2023? Remember that you can earn 10 points for two members completing all 15 Member Education Video modules (watching videos and answering activity sheet questions). If four members complete all 15, your chapter earns 20 points, and if six members complete all 15, your chapter earns 30 points. Any chapters who had an odd number of completions last year — only one member complete or one over an award category — will automatically have a head start on the 2023 chapter award points. We have just updated the “International Officers” module including our own Dr. Beverly Hall as 2nd Vice President! All submissions due to [DKG.member.edu@gmail.com](mailto:DKG.member.edu@gmail.com) or mailed to Dr. Elaine Alexander, 2811 Pavilion Place, Murfreesboro, TN 37129 no later than March 15, 2023.

### ***First Vice-President Marsha Brewer Due March 15, 2023***

#### **Call for Workshops at State Convention**

It is never too early to be thinking about presenting a workshop at the TNSO Convention in Sewanee, Tennessee on June 2, 2023. We hope to be able to offer a variety of sessions that will appeal to both active and retired teachers of all ages. Some recent suggestions from our “Young DKG” members include making seasonal wreaths or arrangements, presentation by a TEA representative, a legislative panel, a session on self-defense, and workshops/programs dealing with social issues. Please offer your expertise on these or other relevant and creative topics. The deadline for workshop proposals will be March 15, 2023, and the proposal form can be found on [www.tndkg.org](http://www.tndkg.org) under “Calendar”.

### ***Historical Preservation Chapter History Submission Deadline March 15, 2023***

The Historical Preservation Committee is now ready to receive a chapter’s history. A chapter may include some or all the following. However, please also include stories or events that may be unique to the chapter.

- a. Date of chapter charter
- b. Charter Members
- c. Original chapter location (county)
- d. Chapter presidents and presidential term

- e. Honors or awards received
- f. Chapter Scholarships or grants
- g. Members served on International/State Committees or Offices

**Chapters in Area I and Area II, or Area IV** will send the chapter history to Judy Bailey Ogle and Laura Ogle, [judybaileyogle@gmail.com](mailto:judybaileyogle@gmail.com) .

**Chapters in Area III, Area V, or Area VI** will send the chapter history to Jan Brown, Sandy Brown, and Peggy Monroe, [janubrown@aol.com](mailto:janubrown@aol.com) or [sbrown@davidsonacademy.com](mailto:sbrown@davidsonacademy.com) .

**Chapters in Area VII, VIII, or IX** will send the chapter history to Irene Archambault and Kathy Kester, [iarch@comcast.net](mailto:iarch@comcast.net) .

Please email Irene Archambault and Kathy Kester, [iarch@comcast.net](mailto:iarch@comcast.net) with any questions regarding chapter history. The committee is requesting that chapters try to limit the history to two pages. Chapters will receive Maycie points for the chapter history.

### *Educational Excellence: Iris Award Due April 1, 2023.*



The Tennessee State Educational Excellence Committee would like to announce an upcoming award that will be instituted for chapter programs and projects. The "Iris Award" will be given at the Tennessee State Convention to the chapter that submits the best program or project. There will be an award in each of those categories. This award will be for chapters that submit their program and/or project to the EEC Corner Spotlight and then complete an "Iris Award" application. The applications will be judged on the following criteria: Relationship to Society Purposes, Involvement of Members, and Impact of the Program or Project. The EEC committee has seen so many excellent programs and projects submitted to the EEC Corner Spotlight and would like to see more recognition given to chapters in this area.

Keep those programs and projects coming for the EEC Corner Spotlight. Remember that you can submit one program and/or one project for the 2023 Iris Award. The application is on the website with the EEC Corner submission form. A program or project must have been submitted to the EEC Corner Spotlight to be eligible. The deadline for the Iris Award application is April 1, 2023.

The Educational Excellence Committee would like to encourage chapters to share your great programs and projects to be uploaded to The EEC Corner on our state website. This is a wonderful resource for all chapters seeking ideas for meaningful meetings and projects. We would like to add a video component to The EEC Corner this biennium, so if you video your presentations, or use YouTube, please submit those as well. The EEC is asking that you submit one program and one project using the Corner Spotlight form found on the state website, *EEC Corner* or *Resources/Chapter Forms and Reports* . Chapters will receive 5 points each for the program and project on the Maycie Chapter Excellence Award. You can email your contributions to: Marsha Brewer (Tennessee State Organization First VP and EEC Chair) at [gnash81@comcast.net](mailto:gnash81@comcast.net) .

**From the EEC: On Legislation**

Legislation is one of the topics that falls under the EEC umbrella. Our Tennessee State Organization has an outstanding Legislation Committee that is active in providing forums to educate members and hear their concerns about educational issues. Ultimately it comes down to each individual vote. Voting is a simple action that carries much power. Women had to fight for the right to vote in our country and have overcome many obstacles. You can find informative programs in the EEC Corner Spotlight on this subject. Please participate in this important freedom by exercising your right to vote in the election coming up on November 8. Your choices can affect our democracy!

***Membership***

Our time is running out on our project, Membership Moments. I hope you will take some time out of one of your chapter meetings to ask members to write down one of their special Delta Kappa Gamma moments. This would be a wonderful activity to begin or end a chapter meeting by having members read their special Membership Moment.

The moment can be funny, sentimental, happy moment, a convention moment, a leadership moment, a workshop moment, a friendship moment, a location moment, etc., etc. Members can submit as many “moments” as they would like---the more the merrier!!

The Membership Committee is going to take the members’ moments and combine them in a booklet to give to members at the 2023 state convention. We are so excited about this project and want as many TNSO members to participate as possible. Please email/scan your chapter moments to me ([mjwilson1545@yahoo.com](mailto:mjwilson1545@yahoo.com)) or mail them to me (1180 East Irvin Drive, Memphis, TN). I hope you will join my state committee in our project. We look forward to receiving your chapter’s Membership Moments.

***Member Opportunities and Discounts***

Please look for Member Opportunities and Discounts on the state website under *Resources/Membership*.

***Planning Committee: Chapters Helping Chapters***

Each month a successful practice from a chapter is featured. Don’t hesitate to brag on your chapter or a chapter you have visited and in so doing share a practice that has worked well. Please send successful practices to Chapter Strengthening Chair, Beverly Hall, ([BNHOSA@msn.com](mailto:BNHOSA@msn.com)). Make sure you report the need that was being addressed, enough details of the practice that other chapters could replicate it, and the results. Visit [www.tndkg.org](http://www.tndkg.org) under *Resources/Chapter Helping Chapters Blog* for past features.

**November 2022 Feature**

When a chapter program would be of particular interest and benefit to a wider audience than just the chapter, has your chapter considered inviting others, not just potential members, to attend? Pi Chapter extended invitations to the spouses and significant others of Pi members to attend their October 16 meeting which included Jim Dotson, Candidate for State Representative.



Invitations were sent via e-mail and the monthly newsletter. Several husbands attended the event which included a meal and question/answer session with the candidate.

Likewise, Beta Chapter has encouraged Beta members to invite their friends and family members who would be interested when speakers such as renowned portrait painter Shane Neal and Nashville historian David Ewing were providing the program. Having a larger audience for a well-known speaker creates good will for the speaker and for those to whom invitations are extended.

**Special Events:** 2022 Silent Auction Update

It is not too late to get credit on the 2023 Maycie Award for Chapter Excellence for a cash donation of at least \$25.00. Donations can be accepted until March 31, 2023. The Special Events will be holding the Silent Auctions at the 2023 TNSO Convention. Please plan on attending.

**Achievement Award Due Date: March 15**

The Tennessee State Organization Achievement Award is one of the highest honors that can be bestowed upon one of our ladies. The recipient exemplifies leadership, commitment to her chapter and state organization, and a desire to uphold our society purposes and is a member who goes above and beyond to make a difference in her community as well as the field of education. The Tennessee State Organization is filled with exceptional women educators who are more than qualified to be nominated for the Achievement Award. The application is now available on the TNSO website [www.tndkg.org](http://www.tndkg.org) About Us/Achievement Award Winners. Please contact Pat Parker, Achievement Award Chair at [pparker@realtracs.com](mailto:pparker@realtracs.com) for additional information.



**Wanted:  
Achievement  
Award Applications**

**Candidate Description:**

- \*Consider all members with their talents and contributions at the chapter & state level
- \*Do not have to have served as a state officer, could be a “behind the scenes kind of worker”
- \*One who represents **DKG** in their community and/or supports other organizations compatible with society purposes & endeavors
- \***Tennessee State Organization** is filled with exceptional women educators; search your chapters for a nomination to submit to:  
**Pat Parker, chairperson for the committee.**  
**([pparker@realtracs.com](mailto:pparker@realtracs.com))**  
**Applications are due March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**  
**Forms can be found on the State website.**  
**Nominate your Chapter’s Outstanding sister!!**

**International News and Deadlines** (In order to view some information, you might need to log in to the International Website with your member I.D. number and password. You may always use the chat if you are not sure how to log-in with your information.)

**\*DKG Publications:** There are many articles and publications on the International Website concerning current issues with regards to our DKG Society, education, just to mention a few. Use the link, <https://www.dkg.org/PublicationsPrivate?WebsiteKey=f2a9f9b2-97e4-46ea-a2f2-6b3771b0cb9d>

**\*DKG Blogs:** International Committees have Blog Spots. Interested? Check out the following: <http://dkg.si.blogspot.com/>

**Where to Go for What?**

Are you looking for forms or information regarding an event? Most of the information may be found at [www.tndkg.org](http://www.tndkg.org) under *About Us*, *Resources*, the *Calendar*, or *The Homepage*.

However, here is also the link to go to the *Website Short-Cut List or Where to Go for What?*  
[https://www.tndkg.org/\\_files/ugd/4ad137\\_92053a7e973b4033a7998232c2edad52.pdf](https://www.tndkg.org/_files/ugd/4ad137_92053a7e973b4033a7998232c2edad52.pdf)

**Chapter Visits**

I will be visiting several chapters during the month of October plan to visit many more in the future. I would love to visit your chapter. Just let me know when I may schedule a time with you. New for 2022-2023. I will be spotlighting your chapter president when I come to visit.

**Chapter President Focus and From the Heart with Stefanie Landis**

Dr. Stefanie Landis is the president of Beta Nu Chapter located in Shelbyville. Her teaching career 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade ELA and Social Studies as well as Literacy Coordinator for one year at Eakin, then taking the assistant principal position at Southside Elementary. Dr. Landis is in her second year as principal at Southside. Her husband is Conrad Landis, an Air Force veteran who works for the Tennessee Fire and Codes Academy. They have two daughters, Jayleigh and Berkeley. Dr. Landis was inducted into the Beta Nu Chapter of DKG in 2016. The Beta Nu Chapter was founded in 1978.

Membership Moment: “I remember when my dear friend, Kanya Gordon, invited me to my first meeting. I never dreamed that eventually I would become president. I will always be grateful for her invitation. I am honored to be part of Delta Kappa Gamma. It is wonderful to have the opportunity to network with such inspirational and amazing women educators.”

**Chapter President Focus and From the Heart with Meri Bigham**

Meri Bigham is the president of Beta Kappa Chapter located in Fayetteville. Meri is retired after teaching 32 years in Lincoln and Marshall counties. She taught high school home economics, elementary school, and was an instructional facilitator. Her family consists of her husband, Keith, two daughters, and three grandchildren. Meri has been a member of DKG for 40 years! She has served on different committees in Beta Kappa chapter and served as chapter President twice. Meri has enjoyed attending state meetings at Sewanee, a regional meeting and the International Convention when it was in Nashville. A few years ago, she attended the Beginning Leadership Seminar and recently attended her first Creative Arts Retreat-- lots of fun!

Membership Moment: “I enjoyed serving on the convention steering committee this past year. I was able to put names and faces together and meet so many wonderful ladies. I encourage anyone to volunteer to work on a state committee.” Beta Kappa Chapter was founded in 1976.

**Chapter President Focus and From the Heart with Sheron Smith**

Sheron Smith is the president of Lambda Chapter located in Cleveland. This is Sheron’s nineteenth year in the classroom. She currently teaches second



grade. Sheron has been married for 13 years and an eight-year-old daughter, Jackie, who is in second grade in her teammate's class. Sheron has been a member of DKG for ten years. Sheron was the 2021-2022 East Tennessee Teacher of the Year and is currently serving her second year of a two year commitment on TDOE's Teacher Advisory Council. Sheron believes in giving back to the community. She supports and volunteers with the area's pregnancy care center and the local chapter of Girls on the Run. She also regularly donates blood and advocates for blood donation and did so even before she received a life-saving blood transfusion a few years ago.

Membership Moment: "In 2020 when many organizations weren't meeting in person, our chapter had a meeting at a local park. The leadership was also very accommodating in offering options for participation, providing a Zoom link. I enjoyed the meeting at the park. I remember that the weather was nice that day. Even though it wasn't what we were used to, we made it work."

Lambda Chapter serves Bradley and Polk Counties and was founded in 1941.

***Chapter President Focus and From the Heart with Relva Lewis***

Relva Lewis is the chapter president of Alpha Delta chapter. Married with a blended family, her husband, Doug, works for UPS. He has two sons Relva had 2 sons. Her oldest son died of brain cancer 5 years ago. She currently has one daughter-in-law and is expecting her first grandchild. She will have another daughter-in-law in September. Her youngest child is a sophomore in high school. Relva still teaches in the classroom. Teaching is her second profession. She teaches senior economics and sophomore biology (All her biology students have IEPs). Relva has been a member of DKG for 8 years.



Membership Moment: "My membership moment happened at the beginning leadership conference. I've always been told by my family I "only feel through my fingers" which makes me feel like something is wrong with how I handle life. My sisters are nurturing & very sympathetic. I am not. My motto is Suck it Up, Buttercup. Someone mentioned at the conference they were a pull up by the bootstrap person and it takes all of us to help people. I was like YES! Here is someone else like me. We need sympathizers and people to spur others to action!" Alpha Delta Chapter serves White and Van Buren Counties and was founded in 1952.

***Chapter President Focus and From the Heart with Kristi Hargis***

Beta Phi Chapter serves Campbell and Claiborne Counties and was founded in 1982. Kristi Hargis is the president of Beta Phi Chapter. She currently teaches first grade, and is in her 25<sup>th</sup> year of teaching. She is married to Ross, and they have two children, a daughter and a son, ages 15 and 8. She has been a DKG member since 2018.



Membership Moment: "One of my favorite memories is being invited to join DKG and being inducted. It truly was a dream come true! As chapter president, I want to continue the legacy of impactful educators past and present."

***Chapter President Focus and From the Heart with Allison Maynard and Amy Burton***

Allison Maynard and Amy Burton serve as co-presidents for Alpha Chapter, located in Hamilton County and founded in 1937. Allison has been a member of three different



chapters. Inducted into Beta Zeta Chapter in 1999, Allison has attended the Beginning Leadership Seminar, the Advanced Leadership Seminar, recipient of the Order of the Rose in 2016 and served on many state committees. She has also served as Gamma Lambda Chapter President from 2014-2016. Allison was born and raised in Chattanooga for most of her life. She has been very active in her church and retired after working many years as a librarian.

Membership Moment: “Going to Xi State/TNSO Convention has always been a special time for me. When I was teaching it signaled that summer was officially here. I looked forward to seeing friends that I have gotten to know over the years and getting to meet new ones. I think I have only missed one convention in 24 years. The Ceremony of Remembrance is one of the highlights. It is such a special service, especially being in the campus chapel.”

Amy Burton is the other co-president of Alpha Chapter. Amy is in her 31<sup>st</sup> year of teaching K-5 Drama. Her parents, sister, brother-in-law, niece and nephew live in Athens, Georgia, where her mother is also a member of DKG. Amy has been a member of DKG for 19 years. She has been to many state conventions, two creative arts retreats, and the beginning leadership seminar. She served on the state awards committee from 2007-2009. Amy served as First Vice President of Gamma Lambda from 2004-2006, President of Gamma Lambda from 2006-2008, and is now co-president of Alpha Chapter.

Membership Moment: “The first time I attended the state convention, I was so moved by the meditation given by Vera Jo Henegar at the Ceremony of Remembrance that I asked her for a copy of it. She graciously gave me the very copy she had read from and then invited me to ride with her back to Rebel's Rest, which I got to see before it burned. I have always been so impressed by the DKG state leaders in Tennessee. They never rest on their laurels but continue to serve after they are presidents. They also make new members feel welcome and important as Vera Jo did for me that day.”

**Thanks for All You Do!**



**2021-2023 Tennessee State Officer Team and Related Personnel**

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