

Peaks & Plains



Colorado Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Volume 80

Winter 2025

Number 1



Greeley, Colorado is the site of the Colorado State DKG Spring Board Meeting. Sisters from all over the state will gather on March 15, 2025 at the University of Northern Colorado University Center in Columbine Room B. Check-in is from 8:15-9:00 and the meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. We will be finished at 4:00 p.m. As always, CEU credit will be available, as will lunch. The cost of the registration and meal is \$45.00. The Call and Registration are included in this issue of the Peaks & Plains. Registration is due by February 21, 2025.

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Omega State Officers

2023-2025

President - Dr. Maxine Fawcett-Yeske

1st Vice President - Maggi Johnson

**2nd co-Vice Presidents - Paulette Evans
Deutsch/Karen Libby**

Recording Secretary - Nancy Pierce

**Corresponding Secretary - Memory
Wollenweber**

Executive Secretary - Beth Barzdukas

Treasurer - Lilly Vigil

Parliamentarian - Memory Wollenweber

Editor - Juana Hajek

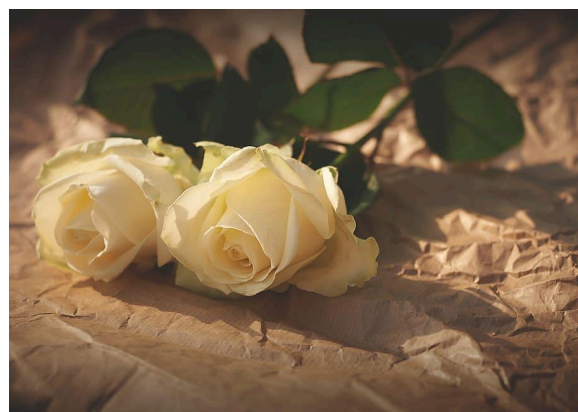
Webmaster - Heidi Ragsdale

Archivist - Kathy Flynn

**Immediate Past President - Suzanne
Foster**



White Roses of Remembrance



REMINDER FOR CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

It is very important that each death of a member be reported as soon as possible on **Form 6 for Death of a Member**. Please work with your membership team leaders to promptly report to all three of the following:

1. **International Membership Services:**
mem@dkg.org

**2. Omega State Membership Team
Leaders:**

Kelly McGuire:
mcguire_maureen@yahoo.com

Farabe Smith: farabes1@gmail.com

3. Omega State Treasurer: Lilly Vigil:
cmcer1@msn.com

The form is interactive online and is available on both the state and international websites. Names will not be listed in the White Roses unless the form 6 is submitted.

Team Updates **Nominations Team**

The Nominations Team is looking for Colorado DKG members who would be interested in serving as State Recording Secretary for the 2025-2027 biennium. The duties of the job are as follows:

COLORADO STATE ORGANIZATION RECORDING SECRETARY

The Recording Secretary shall keep the minutes of the Colorado State Organization's Conventions and Conferences business meetings and the Colorado State Organization Executive Board meetings. The Recording Secretary shall serve as custodian of the Colorado State Organization tape recorder. The Recording Secretary shall send copies of approved minutes to the Colorado State Organization's President, Executive Secretary and file a copy in the Colorado State Organization Secretary's notebook. The Recording Secretary shall send a resume of the minutes to all Colorado State Organization Executive Board designated members with THE CALL to the next Colorado State Organization Executive Board meeting.

Interested candidates should contact Laurie Salazar, Nominations Team Leader at

lsalazar444@gmail.com or 970-749-9809, please leave a message.

The Nominations Team is proud to announce the Slate of Officers for Colorado State for the 2025-2027 Biennium:

The candidates are Maxine Fawcett - Yeske - President, Maggi Johnson – First Vice President, Dr. Heathre Palige - Second Vice President, Recording Secretary – OPEN, and Memory Wollenweber - Corresponding Secretary. The election of state officers will be held at the Delta Kappa Gamma State Convention Englewood, Colorado in June, 2025.

Maxine Fawcett-Yeske President



I am excited about the possible opportunity to serve Delta Kappa Gamma at the State level as President for a second time.. I believe in giving back to the community that nurtures and inspires me, and Delta Kappa Gamma has done that for me for nearly twenty years now. I have served as President of the Eta Chapter more than once. Members of the chapter have said that I have “breathed new life into our chapter out of sheer will and enthusiasm.” I suggest, however, that I have sparked enthusiasm in our members and together, we’ve been recapturing the spirit of our chapter. I hope my enthusiasm and leadership can help us find ways to strengthen and grow DKG at the state level and beyond.

Maxine has a BS in Music, a Masters in Music Education, a Masters in History and a Ph.D. in Music History. She is retired from the United States Air Force Academy where she served as Director of First-Year Programs, Academic Advisor, and Professor of History and Music.

Dr. Fawcett-Yeske is a member of numerous professional organizations such as the American Musicological Society, The College Music Society, and The Society for American Music. In her community, she sings in the Celebration Multicultural Ensemble—a group that specializes in African American spirituals and gospel music, and her most recent volunteer work has been with One Nation Walking Together—a non-profit organization that provides food, clothing, and furniture to Native American communities in a seven-state region. Maxine is honored to have been awarded the Delta Kappa Gamma Omega State Award in 2021.

Margaret (Maggi) P. Johnson
First Vice President



I would like to serve the DKG Colorado State Organization as 1st. Vice President for the biennium 2025-2027. I have participated in volunteer service since junior high working with inner city academically challenged students. I also have volunteered in public schools, private schools, and charter schools.

At The Vanguard School in Colorado Springs, CO, I have volunteered in tutoring Math after school to academically challenged students in 4th through 6th grades for a few years, helping them to achieve Math success at grade levels. Before that time period, I also was professionally in charge of an after school program called Springboard. I was the coordinator overseeing teachers with academics, social, and creative learning activities.

As President of RHO Chapter during the height of Covid during 2020- 2021, I learned to be

flexible, creative, and conduct hybrid meetings, etc. Frequent personal communication i.e., cards, phone calls, e-mails with Chapter members.

My future vision of DKG and our state is to expand and diversify our membership. Promoting positive changes treasuring our traditions. But our membership, in order to progress and grow, must be flexible and exciting to our ever changing world for a successful DKG future.

Maggi received her BA in Education and Psychology as well as a minor in History from the University of Denver in 1976. She has taught in various capacities along the front range from 1977 to present.

Dr. Heathre Palige
Second Vice President



I am honored to be considered as the Colorado DKG Second Vice President for the upcoming biennium. As a member of the Leadership Development team, I assisted the Co-First Vice Presidents in preparing and organizing sessions for the 2024 state conference. I sent personalized emails to each presenter and took extra steps to send “Thank You” notes after the conference. At my first DKG meeting (via Zoom in late 2020). I knew this was the organization for me and these were “my people”! DKG welcomed me wholeheartedly and continues to provide many opportunities for growth, learning, friendship, and leadership. I find joy in volunteering and making a difference. Due to a strong work ethic and regular attendance at chapter meetings, functions, board meetings, and state and international conventions, I believe I would be a

strong candidate for Second Vice President of DKG Colorado. As the Membership Chair for my chapter and Vice President, I take action to increase our chapter size and build funds through activities and creative ideas. My personal and professional strengths that would assist me as Second Vice President include a strong work ethic, integrity, availability, active listening skills, writing and tech ability, time management, and my supportive family dynamic. I look forward to continuing to learn and grow in this new role with so many capable, kind, wise women to guide me.

Recording Secretary - Open

Memory Wollenweber Corresponding Secretary



If we are fortunate enough, we have women in our lives who love us, guide us, and mentor us. For me, those women were all teachers. Because of my grandmother, I knew by the age of eight that I wanted to become a teacher just like her. She began her teaching career in a one room schoolhouse on the Colorado prairie and became fast friends with a teacher in a neighboring school. The friend became my “Auntie Pep”. Her name was Bertha Campbell who went on to become a Jefferson County principal and a proud member of Pi Chapter, Omega State, The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. My third great fortune was to have Naomi Kullerstrand Olson as my third grade teacher and principal. I will never forget the love that she showed me and the feeling of being special in my teacher’s eyes. It’s a need all children have, and the memory lasts a lifetime. Naomi

was a founder of Omega State and the first president of Pi Chapter.

When I became a teacher, it was my Auntie Pep’s dream for me to become a member of Delta Kappa Gamma. She didn’t live long enough to see it come true. But, her friends, Rose Stein and Freda Rizzari saw it through to fruition. I had the great honor and pleasure of chauffeuring Naomi to Pi functions and State Conventions. There were many “greats” in Pi Chapter when I became a member: women dedicated to the purposes of DKG with schools named in their honor – Ilene Deane, Marjorie Thomson, Bertha Campbell, Naomi Kullerstrand Olson. My life is far richer for knowing these inspirational leaders.

It is with a grateful heart that I accept the nomination for Corresponding Secretary of Colorado State in honor of our past and with a vision for our future.

Memory is a retired educator from Jefferson County Public Schools where she taught elementary students for 35 years. She received both her Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Northern Colorado. As a member of Pi Chapter, Memory has served as President (two terms) and 1st Vice President and a member of Omega State Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee. She also served as Colorado State Recording Secretary for two terms.

Memory is a Member of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Making Choices Teacher and Mentor (pairing professional women with incarcerated women at Denver Women’s Correctional Facility), Yoga Instructor, Board of Directors Arvada West High School Foundation, Arvada Historical Society and Denver Audubon Society.

Educational Law and Policy Team

The Educational Law and Policy Team would like to report on ballot measures from the last election that affected education. Amendment 80 would have solidified parents’ right to send their kids to any public school, charter school, private school or homeschooling program by placing this right in the state constitution. It would have

taken a 55% majority to pass this amendment. Yes votes totaled 48.32%; no votes totaled 50.68 %. Therefore the measure did not pass and there is no change to school choice in Colorado.

Bylaws and Standing Rules Team

Dear DKG Members,

Greetings from the Colorado State Organization Bylaws and Standing Rules Team (BSR Team)! The wheels of the BSR Team are turning, even if it seems they are turning slowly. Updating our Colorado State Organization Bylaws and Standing Rules is a work in progress. The finalized International Constitution and Standing Rules are now on the DKG website under "Documents". These documents can be downloaded for your convenience. The GAPP (Guidelines, Policies, and Procedures) is also under "Documents": the latest word from Donnis Poe, International Constitution Committee Chair, is that we do not have to refer to that document. Also, under "Documents" are "Approved Amendments at the 2024 DKG International Convention Most Directly Affecting Chapters and State Organizations". That is the document the BSR Team is using to help in the updating of our current Colorado State Organization Bylaws and Standing Rules.

As for our DKG Colorado website, our Colorado State Organization Governing Documents are there and usable for the time being. The most current on the Team Docs Menu is the 2019 Standing Rules Amended in 2021 and 2023. If there are any questions or suggestions, don't hesitate to ask! Call Susan Denny, 303-263-8565 (cell) or email: sdenny@gramshop.com.

Membership

The Membership is going through a time of transition with the resignation of Farabe Smith as co-Team Leader. Kelly McGuire will still be Team Leader and Christina Collazzo of Rho Chapter will be joining the Membership Team.

The team is preparing for our remembrance ceremony in June.

Chapter Happenings

Alpha Rho

Keeping with our state's theme of learning has no boundaries, November's program was given by Jessica May, 2024 Colorado Teacher of the Year. She spoke to us about the latest of today's teaching in schools. We talked about the current economic, political, and educational issues. It was truly an informative and insightful meeting.



Jessica May, 2024 Colorado Teacher of the Year

We ended the year with one of our favorite social events. Our Christmas get-together with our sister chapter, Delta. Alpha Rho hosted with the theme of "Santas Around the World". We had decorations, games, and food centered around our theme.



Santas Around the World with Delta Chapter



First Graders from Frontier Charter Academy

The hit of the gathering was a musical presentation from Frontier Chapter Academy under the directorship of Eric Long. The group of talented 1st graders dazzled us with their showmanship. They gave us the ultimate joy and the meaning of Christmas. The festivities were truly enjoyed by all.

Submitted by Beth Barzdukas

Rho

Rho Chapter kicked off our year with our annual meeting at Big Sandy High School in Simla, hosted by the Simla Crew. President Donna Jenkins recognized members for their years of membership. As always, the food was delicious and the fellowship was wonderful.

Our November meeting was canceled due to our wet heavy snowstorm and several members being snowed in.

Our December meeting included our annual “Box Social” auction which benefited our scholarship program. The program included the reading of our Rho Chapter history and Dr. Suess’ *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* both read by Juana Hajek.

We had our January meeting in the MY Library at Miami Yoder School. The program was Book Talks by Juana, and featured best loved picture books of MY Elementary students.



All set up and ready to paint

We all learned to paint a little at our February meeting with Rustic Charm Painting with Kaylie McKnight. We are all looking forward to our upcoming joint meeting with Eta Chapter.

Submitted by Juana Hajek

Delta

Many members of Delta Chapter are retired but remain interested in learning about what is going on in local schools. Over the past two years, members have taken “field trips” to schools. They have visited the robotics labs, seen flexible seating, and passed through secure entries—all part of the projects provided by Greeley-Evans School District tax initiatives allowing the district to rebuild or update many buildings. Delta members visited four new or renovated projects in the last two years: McAuliffe Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Academy, new Greeley West

High School, Madison STEAM Academy (STEM with Arts), and the Career and Technical Education Center. Like many districts, Greeley-Evans provides career training for high school juniors and seniors. Students can earn college credits or certificates in cybersecurity, cosmetology, welding, and construction trades. Delta members also visited the Teacher Cadet classroom in which aspiring educators learn about careers in education and work in elementary classrooms. This spring, members plan another field trip to the Greeley-Evans Early College Academy. In four years, students can earn an Associate of Arts degree from Aims Community College as well as a high school diploma. These field trips align with DKG International Purpose #7. Delta members, more informed about current trends in K-12 education, share the good news and success with other educators and the community.



Delta members toured the new S. Christa McAuliffe STEM Academy. Also pictured is the daughter of Delta member Diane Rochester.



Nancy Robinson (left) and Judy Hartshorn (right) are pictured here with Nidia Martinez-Caro, principal of James Madison STEAM Academy

Also, in October Delta Chapter member Dr. Deirdre Pilch was selected as Colorado Superintendent of 2025 by the Colorado Association of School Executives. Here is one key statement from the press release: “Dr. Pilch is unflagging in her dedication to ensuring equity and access for all students. Greeley-Evans is the fifteenth largest district in Colorado and serves as a refugee resettlement community with over 60 different languages spoken, and over 70% of students living in poverty.” Delta congratulates Dr. Pilch not only for this honor but for all she has accomplished.

Submitted by Dr. Amie Cieminski and Mary Lauck

Alpha Mu

***EXTRA! EXTRA!! READ
ALL ABOUT IT!
WOW!! MAGIC RECIPE
FOR HOLIDAY SILENT
AUCTION***

**Take 45 minutes + Silent Auction
= \$2700.00 for DKG
Scholarships! 😊**

*WHO: Delta Kappa Gamma ~ International
Society of Women Educators! Members, family
friends, the public!*

*WHAT: Silent Holiday Auction in 45 minutes!
(Write your bid!) (Keep checking...)*

*WHEN: Early December on a Saturday. 11:00 –
11:45AM.*

*WHERE: Choose a location, tables available to display
items. (Elementary School gym...Classroom...Be
creative!)*

*HOW: Gather your auction items! Advertise! Get the
Word Out! Social Media! Fliers and word of mouth!
Tell your friends! Tell All! Posters!*

RECIPE for SUCCESS

FIRST: DKG Members Gather/Prepare/Collect Items ~
such as: Gift Baskets with a theme: “Movie Night!”
“Sports!” “Books!” “Chocolate!” “Games!” “Kids in
Mind!” “Pottery!” “Cheese/Crackers! Kitchen items!”
“Charcuterie Board” “Handmade/sewn finery, quilts”
... Jams, Jellies, Home canned treats! Honey!

Certificates Good for ~

Yoga Classes, Stem Classes, Specialty Cakes ~ You
choose! Coffee Cakes ~ samples to taste! Raclette
Dinner Night ~ FUN!! (You’ve got to try this!)
Ornaments ~ Holiday decorations ~ wreaths!
Gingerbread Ready to Bake YUM! Use your
imagination!

ON THE SIDE...

Play a cozy fireplace video! Cool! Cozy! Holiday music
in the background...atmosphere! Door prizes while the
eager bidders/buyers bid! Refreshments while everyone
browses and bids ... cheese, crackers, cookies, munchies.
(By the way ~ We had 147 items! Amazing and joyful!
FUN!) Have some bags ready at checkout! This will be
the most fun you can have in 45 minutes! Best Wishes
for a successful Auction and Scholarship Money to
award! YOU CAN DO IT!!

Submitted by Anne Djokic

Mark Your Calendars!

Spring Board Meeting

**March 15, 2025
University of Northern Colorado
University Center
Columbine Room B
Greeley, Colorado**

**An editable version of the registration is
available at dkgcolorado.com under the
“Events” tab**

Colorado State Convention

**June 10-12, 2025
Hilton Garden Inn 9290 Meridian Blvd.
Englewood, Colorado**

State Officer Training

**International Conference
New Orleans, Louisiana**

International Events

International Convention, Aurora 2026

Aurora Gaylord

Aurora, Colorado

MY Librarian

Professor Peter Shandy has a problem. It's Christmas time and his neighbor, Jemima Ames, the head of Balaclava Agricultural College, has decreed that every resident of the faculty housing will decorate their homes to add to the festivities of the Grand Illumination. The Grand Illumination is a huge fundraiser for Balaclava Agricultural College and everyone is expected to pitch in. Peter has gone along with Jemima's scheme every other year and he is sick and tired of all of the hoopla. This year, he has decided to protest in a big way. He purchases tons of gaudy lights and sets up a speaker system to blare the most annoying Christmas music both day and night. Then, to top off his evil plot, he plans a mini-vacation for the weekend, leaving his annoying music and garish Christmas display to play loudly and flash brightly all weekend long.

When Peter arrives home at the end of his weekend, he discovers that a small bowl of marbles has been upset and marbles are scattered all over the floor. As he is picking the marbles up he discovers the body of Jemima Ames behind his couch where it seems she has fallen while trying to pull the plug on his lights. Thus begins Peter Shandy's second career as amateur sleuth.

Charlotte McLeod wrote *Rest You Merry*, the first of a ten book series about the quirky residents of Balaclava Agricultural College. Each book involves a strange mystery which Peter Shandy is called upon by college president Thjorkeld Svenson to solve. I love all of the eccentric characters and the imaginative

mysteries; for example, one of the mysteries involves the "pignapping" of an award winning boar hog. In another Shandy's wife is doing a study of primitive weather vanes, several of which have been stolen.

Charlotte McLeod has also written twelve Sarah Kelling and Max Bittersohn mysteries and five Madoc Rhys mysteries. Writing as Alisa Craig, McLeod wrote the Grub-And-Stakers books. She also wrote several stand-alone novels and short stories. If you like cozy mysteries with imaginative mysteries and goofy characters, you might like these!

Submitted by Juana Hajek

Mission Statement

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators.

Vision

Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide

Society Purposes

- To unite women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship
- To honor women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education
- To advance the professional interest and position of women in education
- To initiate, endorse, and support desirable legislation or other suitable endeavors in the interests of education and of women educators
- To endow scholarships to aid outstanding women educators in pursuing graduate study and to grant

fellowships to women educators from other countries

- To stimulate the personal and professional growth of members and to encourage their participation in appropriate programs of action
- To inform the members of current economic, social, political, and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society.

Colorado Peaks & Plains

Published three times a year in February, April, and September, by the Omega State Organization of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

Deadlines for inclusion of articles in the Peaks & Plains are as follows:

- **FEBRUARY 1**
- **APRIL 1**
- **SEPTEMBER 1**
- **Contributors to the newsletter are asked to send news as soon as it is available to ensure inclusion in the next issue to:**

Juana Hajek, 24886 County Road 2L Hugo,
Colorado 80821 or
coloradodkgpeaksandplains@gmail.com

For email submissions, please list Peaks & Plains as the subject.

Send address and email changes to:

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
12710 Research Blvd Ste 230
Austin, TX 78759-4395
or mem@dkg.org

Colorado Peaks & Plains Submission Guidelines

1. Each individual article should be a **maximum** of 300 words. The purpose is to have room to make the newsletter a statewide representation of as many chapters as possible.
2. Two photos **maximum**, per article. Photos must include a clear description and name identification of each person in said photos.
3. Additional photos/videos should be submitted to our webmaster Heidi Ragsdale at STEMisMyFuture@gmail.com to be used in a slideshow on the website.
4. Members are encouraged to send photos for this slideshow.
5. Submit basic word processed documents - do not heavily format your submission as it will not translate to the column style of the newsletter. **Please do NOT send submissions in PDF. PDF submissions cannot be formatted correctly for inclusion.**
6. Communicate clearly with the newsletter editor if you want your submission formatted in a specific way.
7. Some suggestions for submissions to *Colorado Peaks & Plains*:
 - New chapter member bios/photos
 - Chapter awards given to members
 - Special chapter projects and/or presentations
 - Programs given at the chapter level
 - Scholarships or other awards given to student teachers, first-year teachers, or community members.

PLEASE NOTE! There is an editable version of the registration for Spring Board Meeting available at dkgcolorado.com under the “Events” tab.



Colorado State Convention

June 10-12, 2025

Learning Has No Boundaries: Exploring the View from a Mile High

Hilton Garden Inn,
9290 Meridian Blvd.,
Englewood CO 80112

A block of rooms have been reserved for us at \$146 per night.

MORE INFORMATION AT
THE SPRING BOARD
MEETING.

SAVE THE DATE!

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



RALLY THE ROSES



Let's help our California Sisters!



*Send donations to
Colorado Treasurer*

Lilly Vigil
217 West Second Street
Leadville, CO
80461-3619

Checks are payable to:
Colorado Delta Kappa
Gamma Society

Memo line: CA Members



All funds will go directly to California
chapter members most impacted by these fires.



RALLY THE ROSES

We know that our sister members in California are in need due to the severe outbreak of wildfires. Please consider donating to this effort, which was started by Pat Merozak-VanAllen of Chi Chapter, who leads our Colorado state Emergency Fund.

