

Peaks & Plains



Colorado Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Volume 81

Fall 2026

Number 3



~Photo Credit; Juana Hajek, Editor

Table of Contents

Omega State Officers _____	2
White Roses of Remembrance _____	2
President's Corner _____	3
Team Updates _____	3
Chapter Happenings _____	4
Items of Interest _____	8
Webmaster/Editor Update _____	14
Mark Your Calendars _____	16
MY Librarian _____	16
Mission Statement, Vision, Society Purposes _____	17
Submission Guidelines _____	17
Extras _____	19



Omega State Officers

2023-2025

President - Dr. Laura Kuniansky

1st Vice President - Dr. Heathre Palige

2nd Vice President - Donna Jenkins

Recording Secretary - Sarah Jack

**Corresponding Secretary - Beth
Barzdukas**

Executive Secretary - Beth Barzdukas

Treasurer - Lilly Vigil

Parliamentarian - Nancy Pierce

Editor - Juana Hajek

Webmaster - Heidi Ragsdale

Archivist - Suzanne Foster

**Immediate Past President - Dr. Maxine
Fawcett-Yeske**



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

Maggi Johnson: maggipj47@aol.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.

President's Corner

COLORADO'S BEST DKG SUMMER!!!

"Welcome to Colorado" was the cue for the 39 Colorado Members receiving a text to meet at the June 30, 2026 Opening Meeting of DKG International Convention in Aurora, CO! I, Dr. Laura Kuniansky, CO State President, was honored with the task of welcoming the close to 900 loyal members, paid personnel, and guests to our beautiful state for this 2026 DKG Society International Convention! CO State DKG's scholarship and finance teams worked together to invite state members meeting the requirements needed, to apply for a Lifelong Learning Scholarship so that they could use this opportunity to attend an International Convention in our own state. (CO is awarded the International Convention location about once every 20 yrs!)

A text was sent to registered members inviting them and any other members who lived close by or who had decided to attend and were not on the to original list to join for dinner at a nearby restaurant outside of the hotel for the evening of June 29, and at a restaurant by the Gaylord Resort & Convention Center pool and lazy river on July 1st. Two tables of members gathered to enjoy food and fellowship and even Lazy River floating. Our surprise guests, Past President Lelia Koenig and her husband were the hits of one table and our own newest recipient of the Omega State Award, Juana Hajek, at the other

table. Many of us visited between tables, river floated, enjoyed wonderfully grilled Mexican goodies, and of course, fabulous fellowship! The Convention's Breakout Sessions took place on Wed., Thurs., Friday, July 1st, 2nd, 3rd. CO STATE DKG had about 10 presenters of Breakout Sessions and altogether about 20 members presenting as speakers, actors, facilitators, etc. What a showing CO State DKG Membership made at DKG Society International's Convention in our home state!!!

With appreciation for each of you,
Laura Kuniansky, Ph.D.
CO State DKG President 2025-2027
(970) 799-8056 cell; (970) 385-6903 home



Team Updates

Nominations Team

Please see the Nominations Form at the end of this newsletter to nominate a worthy DKG member to serve on the Omega State Board. The lists of duties for each position are listed in a document directly below the Nominations Form. Filling out the form is the first step to becoming an officer for the next biennium. WE NEED YOU!!

Submitted by Juana Hajek, team member

Membership

Members of the Membership Team serve for a two year term. Members for this biennium are Maggi Johnson, Kelly McGuire, Dr. Maxine Fawcett-Yeske, Heidi Ragsdale, Christina Collazo, Kathy Jeppson, and Ronda Collette. Ex-Officio member is Dr. Laura Kuniansky, Colorado state president. Duties of the team include:

- Studying membership concerns and making recommendations to the Colorado State Organization Executive Board pertaining to those concerns.
- Providing ideas for increasing and maintaining membership.
- Continuing the expansion of state chapters.
- Training for the strengthening of chapters.
- Conducting the Ceremony of Remembrance to memorialize deceased members at the Colorado State Organization Convention.
- Evaluating recommendations for Colorado Honorary Membership and submitting names to the Colorado State Organization Executive Board for a vote.

Submitted by Dr. Laura Kuniansky

Bylaws and Standing Rules

Beth Barzdukas recently sent out the “Revision Alignment with State Organization and Chapters Governing Documents”. It can also be found by going to dkg.org under “documents” and it is titled “Revision Alignment with State Organizations and Chapter Governing Documents”. If anyone has trouble downloading the document, I will happily print it out and send it on to you via US Mail. It’s only 6 pages and very clear about where the changes are and how they will affect State Organizations and Chapters.

I would ask you to look at this guide along with our State Organization Bylaws and Standing

Rules as well as your Chapter Rules. See where International’s updates fit in with our current governing documents. In a few weeks, I’ll reach out to you for suggestions on a time for a team meeting (it will likely be on Zoom for convenience). I will try to keep everyone informed as we go along. Once we have proposed changes penciled into our current Colorado State Organization Governing Documents (Bylaws and Standing Rules) we can bring them forward to the Fall Executive Board meeting at the Franciscan Center (October 17,2026).

Sincerely,

Susan Denny BSR Team Leader

sdenny@gramshop.com ; 303-263-8565 (cell phone)

Submitted by Susan Denny

Chapter Happenings

Rho

What an exciting summer for Rho Chapter members! In June, we all met in Colorado Springs for our state leadership conference. Rho and Eta Chapters were the hostesses. State 2nd vice president/Rho chapter president Donna Jenkins, Mary Bauer, Donna Hoover, Juana Hajek, Traci Thieman, Debbie Thieman, Maggi Johnson, Kassandra Merryfield, Sarah Helman, and Susan Appelgren were all in attendance. Those attending were able to attend several informative and fun workshops. We enjoyed meeting Dr. Theresa H. Cowan (who became our newest International DKG 2nd Vice President at the DKG International Convention in June). Dr. Cowan shared several inspirational speeches with the members present.

A HUGE thank you goes out to Susan Applegren for the lovely goody bags she made. Included in each bag were a mini chalkboard, a piece of chalk AND handmade resin ink pens and rose magnets.

Yours truly was shocked speechless to have been selected to receive the Omega State Award.

What a surprise it was to see my mother, my sisters, and my dear friend Nolan Payne (Miami Yoder FFA Advisor) at the banquet. Thank you to my sisters in DKG for this singular honor.



Donna Hoover presents the Omega State award to Juana Hajek

At the end of June, The Donnas (Hoover and Jenkins) and Juana Hajek drove to the Gaylord Hotel in Aurora, Colorado for the DKG International Convention. (For more highlights of the International Convention, see page of this issue of Peaks & Plains.)

Submitted by Juana Hajek

Delta Chapter

Greeley's Delta Chapter has had a busy summer starting with a 2026-27 planning meeting conducted by new chapter president, Dr. Kris Melloy. Later in July President Dr. Kris Melloy hosted an informal coffee to welcome three new members to the chapter. New members enjoyed a social time at a local coffee shop and got acquainted with a few current members. The chapter also celebrated the 50-year Memberships of Nancy Roginson and the late Dorothy Benner who passed away on June 2. Nancy received a Delta Chapter certificate and 50-year DKG pin.

A framed certificate was presented later in July to Dorothy Benner's husband Jerry. He shared with the three members who brought the certificate to him how important Delta Kappa Gamma was to Dorothy.



Nancy Robinson is presented with the chapter's 50 year member certificate by President Dr. Kris Melloy and past president Dr. Amie Cieminski

In August, several members of the Early Career Educators Team met to set priorities and to prepare welcoming gifts to early educators at Centennial Elementary School which is currently becoming a community school in Greeley-Evans School District 6. A community school strengthens their partnerships with local organizations and agencies to provide more sustained support so students and families can thrive. The chapter will continue to support this school during the year, focusing especially on the 13 first and second year teachers as well as the new assistant principal.

Chapter members will also donate school supplies and money for the Belize Education Project to support educators outside the United States. Chapter Past President Dr. Amie Cieminski will take the supplies with her to Belize in October. Each educator travelling to Belize will bring two suitcases full of supplies on the trip. This mission project supports four rural schools in Belize.



Pictured are Delta Chapter's Early Career Educator team members Judy Hartshorn, Nancy Robinson, D'Lane Joens, Wendi Oster, and Joyce Langham with beginning of school year gifts for first and second year teachers at Centennial Elementary School.

Submitted by Mary Lauck, Delta Communications Team

Alpha Rho

The spring months brought spring flowers and new growth. We celebrated with activities and programs that stimulated growth in us.

Our March meeting was filled with fellowship and fun with our sister chapter Delta in Greeley. We enjoyed a delicious brunch and good conversation. Our fellow member, Eve Timm, reminisced about the variety of children's books she read with her students. Some of us also shared books from our classrooms. We also had the pleasure of Colorado State President, Laura Kuniansky joining us as our guest. She reported on the upcoming events for both state and international.



Alpha Rho Chapter's joint meeting with Delta Chapter in March

In April, we gathered to honor the students who participated in the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) headed by Stephen Paulson, Greeley Central teacher and Colorado Teacher of the Year.

AVID was our service project for this year. We donated funds and materials for the program and students. A group of students volunteered to serve as a panel for our program. The students explained how the AVID program helped them achieve academically and set goals of furthering their dreams for the future. They explained about the hardships they faced and how they hoped to help their family and community. They spoke about further needs of future students just like them that AVID could help. The students showed how our involvement and support could continue to help our community's needs.



This student panel spoke about the successes of the AVID program, sponsored by Alpha Rho Chapter

With May's meeting, we explored Greeley's past and present. Our group spent the day at Centennial Village. We took the occasion to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the USA, the 150th anniversary of Colorado statehood, and 50th anniversary of Centennial Village of Greeley.

Krist Jana, curator of the Centennial Village of Greeley spoke to us about the history of Greeley and the growth of education in town. Afterwards, several ladies took a tour of the village. It was an enlightening and enjoyable day.



Members enjoyed learning about the history of Greeley at their May meeting

We wished each other a safe and enjoyable summer and looking forward to another year of learning and sisterhood.

Submitted by Maria Conklin

Alpha Mu

Celebrating Big Moments with Alpha Mu!

From hosting a beautiful sunny Tri-Chapter Founder's Day on Therese Moran's deck to shining on the global state, Alpha Mu has been buzzing with activity! Here are a few top highlights:



Alpha Mu Tri-Chapter Founder's Day

❖ **Community Impact:** We celebrated our incredible members and heard exciting aerospace outreach updates from the GJ Space Ladies, all who are Alpha Mu'ers. 🚀

❖ **Future Educators:** Huge congratulations to our CMU Scholarship recipient, Celena Hildebrand, who will be student teaching high school math this spring!! 🎓

❖ **International Opportunities:** After joining the fantastic June Leadership Conference, Alpha Mu presented two sessions at the DKG International Convention--showcasing the our "45

Minute Scholarship Auction" 🛒 🍷 and leading the DKG International Arts & Humanities session! 🎨 🖼️



Therese Moran and Heidi Ragsdale at the International Convention

Submitted by Heidi Ragsdale

It was a lot of fun to meet so many women from all over!



Colorado State President Laura Kuniansky gave the welcome to all of the delegates.

International Conference in Review

(Observations of a Newbie!)

To begin, the Gaylord of the Rockies in Aurora, Colorado is HUGE. It felt as if we walked six or seven miles every day, getting to and from our sessions. It is a beautiful resort with great views of the mountains (although we could not see the mountains at all due to the smoke from the numerous fires burning throughout the west).

The first night after we arrived, I hustled to the New-Bees meet and greet orientation. There were at least 100 other educators from all over the world at the orientation. We played several “getting to know each other” games and enjoyed hearing from International DKG representatives about how to make the most of our convention.



President Laura Kuniansky and Deb Howard presented presiding President Dr. Beverly Hall-Maughan with a handmade quilt, designed and made by Deb Howard

The first session started off with Colorado State President Laura Kuniansky giving a Colorado greeting to all of the delegates. The most talented Deb Howard was welcomed to the stage with a special gift for President Dr. Beverly. This gift was designed and created by Deb and was a one-of-a-kind quilted picture of our lovely Rockies.

There was time for lots of fellowship with the other Colorado delegates while we enjoyed the pool and the water park at the Gaylord. We met by the swimming pool for dinner one night and several members enjoyed a relaxing lap or two around the Lazy River while others enjoyed lively conversations around the table. Everyone was thrilled to see our own Leila Koenig, who came with her husband from Texas to attend!

I found the legislative portion of the Convention to be very interesting, most especially the implementation of Robert's Rules of Order. The meetings during which the bylaws were examined and voted on caused some confusion due to the lack of knowledge of Robert's Rules. Overall, we accomplished a great deal during those meetings because we were able to refine and pass the bylaws.



Susan Denny, Lilly Vigil, and Dr. Mary Jo Pollman enjoying the beautiful evening



One of the business sessions.



We enjoyed lively conversations! Past State President Dr. SueLynn Pettit-Dunbar and Colorado State President Dr. Laura Kuniansky, deep in discussion.



Our Dear Leila and her Dear Husband!

The sessions I attended were interesting to me and I did find some activities I can use during the school year in the library. I especially enjoyed the workshop about the Visionary Network and am planning on submitting my idea during the next cycle. (A family emergency kept me from it for the last cycle.)

The entertainment for DKGIEF at the convention was an Elvis impersonator. The Donnas (Hoover and Jenkins) got all dolled up in 1950s attire and had a ball at the program, along with their DKG sisters. Donna Hoover was especially enamored of Elvis!

Finally, we were all so excited that our International speaker, Dr. Theresa Cowan was elected as our new International 2nd Vice President! Congratulations to Dr. Cowan, and here's to a successful biennium for Dr. Cowan and the rest of the International board; International President-Connie Rensink, Texas; 1st Vice President-Carol Herzog, Indiana; 2nd

Vice President-Dr. Theresa Cowan, North Carolina; Executive Director-Lucinda Hart, CAE, MBA, Texas; Europe Regional Director-Barbara Carlsen, Norway; Northeast Regional Director-Linda Adcock, Illinois; Northwest Regional Director=Lisa Olson, North Dakota; Southeast Regional Director-Nancy Davis, Tennessee; Southwest Regional Director-Patti Belknap, Texas; Immediate Past International President-Dr. Beverly Hall-Maughan, Tennessee; Member-at-Large (2024-2028)-Dr. Donna Niday, Iowa; Member-at-Large (2026-2030)-Beth Schieber, Oklahoma; Area Representative Canada-Dr. Angela Voutier, Manitoba; Area Representative Latin America-Dr. Ovis Angelica Forde, Panama; Parliamentarian-Dr. Helen Popovich, Florida.

I even got to meet three ladies from the Alpha Delta Chapter from New Mexico. This was my mother's (Farabe Smith) chapter when she lived in New Mexico. Kimberly Woodley briefly served as the chapter president and travelled with my mother to various state events in New Mexico.



The Donnas on their way to see Elvis!



Kimberly Woodley, Alpha Delta Chapter of New Mexico and Juana Hajek Rho Chapter of Colorado.



Juana Hajek, Peaks & Plains Editor; Dr. Theresa Cowan, International 2nd Vice President; Colorado State 2nd Vice President, Donna Jenkins.

My first ever International Convention was a great success and I enjoyed every minute. I got to meet new sisters, learned about how the decisions are made at the International level, learned a LOT, and am excited to go back in the future.



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Colorado State Leadership Conference in Review

The First Event of Colorado's BEST DKG Summer

The 2026 Colorado State Leadership Conference was hosted by our Colorado Springs Chapters, Rho and Eta. Donna Jenkins, Rho President, was willing to step up as Colorado's 2nd Vice President when we suddenly lost our beloved Memory Wollenweber, 2nd Vice President and Member Extraordinaire.

Donna planned every moment of the State Conference to match her delightful welcoming sense of humor and responsibility. From The Annie Webb Blanton skit, in which Donna and her sister, Mary Bauer starred. Donna played the part of Dr. Annie Webb Blanton and Mary took on the role of Dr. Blanton's twin sister, who died at birth. The State Leadership Conference attendees learned much about the Blanton family and loved that our Rho Chapter actresses were also sisters in real life. Their act fit perfectly into the conference theme: Learning from the Past, Living in the Present, Looking to the Future.



Left: Mary Bauer as Fannie Blanton
Right: Donna Jenkins as Dr. Annie Webb Blanton

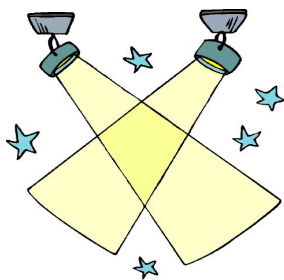
My favorite breakout session at the conference was the one presented by Barb Howe. Barb is a dedicated and conscientious member of Pi Chapter who is also a member of Spellbinders. Spellbinders is a national storytelling group. The members volunteer in schools throughout the United States. I had always wanted to hear a story from her and was mesmerized by her

voices, her enthusiasm, and her attention to detail. As a reading specialist with a Ph.D. in Psychology with an emphasis on cognition and instruction, I saw the many benefits to be gained through storytelling. Youngsters and the elderly alike benefit from listening, retelling, Paying attention to details, recalling the order and events of the story. I could see the leadership skills and thought qualities gained through storytelling groups could benefit people throughout their lives. I also had a better understanding of why my friend Barbara Howe is enthusiastic and sees good in so many of life's occurrences. As DKG has taught me this past year, "A leader's job is help others discover their leadership skills." Colorado State Pi Chapter member Barb Howe and her friend certainly exhibited leadership skills and helped us see how they could bring out the best in everyone! Another great time was had by all at the Summer of 2026 Colorado State Leadership Conference in Colorado Springs, Colorado, June 9-11, 2026.

Submitted by Dr. Laura Kuniansky

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Member Spotlight



This month's Member Spotlight features our STAR Chapters! Congratulations to all! And THANK YOU to Karen Eilenstine, Star Chapter Team.

Congratulations to all of our Colorado DKG chapters for the support they are giving to community organizations, teachers for taking classes and working for degrees and local schools. YOU DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

We awarded 14 Star Chapter awards this year at the state convention. Thank you to the chapters who chose to participate.

Beta - 4 stars, Delta - 4 stars, Epsilon - 3 stars, Zeta - 4 stars, Eta - 2 stars, Mu - 4 stars, Rho - 4 stars, Chi - 4 stars, Omega - 4 stars, Alpha Gamma - 4 stars, Alpha Iota - 4 stars, Alpha Mu - 4 stars, Alpha Rho - 4 stars, Alpha Chi - 2 stars

Here are a few things our chapters are doing in Colorado. Sorry if I missed some of the activities mentioned on your form..

Adopted Hope & Home (supporting foster kids and families), support DECA competition at UNC, Blankets for Children's Hospital, Precious Child, Girls in Africa, Callahan House, Safe Shelter, books for pre-Kindergarten testing program, Ronald McDonald House, Operation Christmas Child for Samaritan's Purse, Family's Plus, Christmas Tree fund raiser for Children's Hospital, Little Flower Assistance League and Joy Boxes, helping to feed Homeless Teenagers, Adopt a Family, Youth in Action, church grief group leader, Aurora food bank, Open Help, sewing charity quilts, presenting a program at Pueblo Community College, donations for a solar car race at the Dual Immersion Academy, Mesa County Foundation for White Ice Event-gift baskets, volunteer at Guadalupe Shelter, clothing back volunteer, hours as a master gardener, support a reader at the Bookworm in Edwards. Looking forward to next year and to hearing about all the wonder projects being contemplated.

Karen Eilenstine, Star Chapter

Do you know a member who has a unique talent? Do you know of a sister who is doing something phenomenal? Please send your information to the Peaks and Plains at coloradodkgpeaksandplains@gmail.com ! We'd love to hear all about them and share their unique stories with our readers in our Member Spotlight!

Public History in New England

This summer I went to two public history events in New England: History Camp Boston, where I presented, and the Connecticut Witch and Culture Festival in Hartford.

At History Camp Boston, hosted at Suffolk University Law School, historians, independent researchers, and lifelong learners gather each year to share their work in a peer-to-peer format. My session covered the history of the witch trials.

In Hartford, I designed an education exhibit for the information booth at the Connecticut Witch and Culture Festival. Visitors included descendants tracing family connections to the accused. We talked through the documented history of Connecticut's accused and the 2023 resolution, House Joint Resolution 34, which absolved those convicted and executed. The festival's remembrance ceremony gave attendees a shared moment to honor them.

This is how I teach. Wherever the material meets an interested person, that is the classroom, whether a conference session, a festival booth, or a passing conversation.

Submitted by Sarah Jack; End Witch Hunts nonprofit; Podcast Producer of

Salem Witch Trials Daily Podcast, The Thing about Witch Hunts, The Thing About the Salem Witch Trials

<https://www.coloradogives.org/organization/End-Witch-Hunts>

The First Fall

By Elaine Belansky, PhD

For thirty years, the school calendar decided what my life looked like. Twenty of those I spent as a university professor, so September meant a new group of students, a syllabus, and the particular noise of a building filling back up. I never chose that rhythm. It arrived on its own every year, and I built everything else around it.

I retired at the end of June 2025. September came anyway, and this time it had no plans for me. I am organized to a fault. My spice drawer is alphabetized. So I assumed an open fall would be the easy part.

What caught me off guard was how much of my year had been built on someone else's calendar without my ever noticing. Fall had always meant starting something. That first year, nothing started. The light changed, the mornings got cold, and I sat with my coffee wondering what I was supposed to be gearing up for.

Those of us who spent our careers in education feel this differently, I think. Most people leave a job. We leave a calendar, the one that told us when to push hard, when to rest, and when a fresh start was allowed. Nobody warns you about that part.

What I've found is that the shape doesn't come back on its own. You have to give the year its own markers now, and they can be small. Mine are exercise classes I won't move off the calendar, as fixed now as a faculty meeting used to be.

If your first fall without a school year feels stranger than you expected, *Retiring Into Yourself* is a free email series I wrote for women in this transition. It's a week of short guided reflections, one landing in your inbox each morning. You can sign up at <https://elainebelansky.com/retiring-into-yourself>.



Elaine Belansky, PhD, retired in June 2025 after thirty years working at universities. She is a retirement transition coach who works with women on the identity side of retirement rather than the financial side. Email: elaine@elainebelansky.com Website: <https://elainebelansky.com>

Webmaster/Editor Updates

Heidi Ragsdale, Webmaster

Happy Fall, Colorado DKG! 🍁 ✨

Looking to spark some serious inspiration for your chapter this year? Big things are happening, and it all starts at **DKGColorado.com!**

Here's how you can dive in and get involved right now!

- 📸 **Relive the Magic:** Head to the Photos page for fresh new shots from summer!
- 💡 **Get Inspired:** Check out the Leadership Conference & Convention slideshows on the events tab!
- 🚀 **Connect & Lead:** Join a **Visionary Network group**, build connections with new and returning members, and bring your unique voice to the room!
- 🎉 **Drive the Future:** Rally behind the **#SecondCenturyDKG100** campaign as we push to welcome 100 new members across Colorado by 2029, our Society's 100th birthday!

Next Steps for Your Chapter:

1. Take a quick 5 minutes during your next meeting to tour the state site together.
2. Keep the momentum going—send in your updates and photos! Email ColoradoDKG@gmail.com
3. Got a chapter website? Be sure to submit it to DKG International to get officially verified for 2026–2028.

Let's make this year our most empowering one yet!



International DKG Convention, Aurora, CO



Colorado Leadership Fieldtrip to Space Foundation
Discover Center

Editor Update Juana Hajek

How much time would it take to write THREE articles per year for the Peaks & Plains? That is my challenge to you all this year. I would love to be able to include an article in each issue from every chapter in our great state of Colorado. What types of items can you write about? Here are some ideas:

- Chapter meetings-What did you discuss?
- What programs are you implementing?

- New member inductions, chapter officer installations.
- PHOTOS! We love seeing your faces!
- State or International functions that members of your chapters attended.
- ANYTHING! If you think it is newsworthy, it probably is.

Don't be shy!

I will be giving a brief presentation about Parliamentary Procedure according to Robert's Rules of Order. If you are interested in purchasing materials so that you can learn about Parliamentary Procedure, these are links to the materials I will be using in my presentation: Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 12th Edition

https://www.amazon.com/Roberts-Rules-Order-Newly-Revised/dp/1541736699/ref=sr_1_1?crid=JWYDQ4H8RIMR&dib=eyJ2Ijo1MSJ9.fh4RXxfDPinoc4ggpChk_JbF495FVXV8oWgfRbn3L8u3eZlWsALRxgoIc860IhoB5tKitlQnY_NLxNi uD5M3jFO6Ms_z7dyPUAqyFjr--EuC70kBg8vHZmPqkO9rtuGFDG7RsvtyCyaXmVUyCL_xSbo_fYc5Esl73Ef3ZctJ8kwYxwo7xLwXJjWGWY6WVn4hTCBJTgkmPel7QMrTaEM7X8UmwD67LELynq42XaxD5n0.utsWZp2mXJDKdhIKN2keFdyNkLNUBmZOof07K3hn2g6c&dib_tag=se&keywords=robert%27s+rules+of+order+2026&qid=1789507444&srefix=Robert%27s%2Caps%2C514&sr=8-1

Robert's Rules of Order: QuickStudy Laminated Reference Guide

https://www.amazon.com/RobertS-Rules-Order-Quick-Business/dp/1423216679/ref=sr_1_3?crid=JWYDQ4H8RIMR&dib=eyJ2Ijo1MSJ9.fh4RXxfDPinoc4ggpChk_JbF495FVXV8oWgfRbn3L8u3eZlWsALRxgoIc860IhoB5tKitlQnY_NLxNi uD5M3jFO6Ms_z7dyPUAqyFjr--EuC70kBg8vHZmPqkO9rtuGFDG7RsvtyCyaXmVUyCL_xSbo_fYc5Esl73Ef3ZctJ8kwYxwo7xLwXJjWGWY6WVn4hTCBJTgkmPel7QMrTaEM7X8Umw

[D67LELynq42XaxD5n0.utsWZp2mXJDKdhIKN2keFdyNkLNUBmZOfo7K3hn2g6c&dib_tag=](https://www.amazon.com/Roberts-Rules-QuickStart-Simplified-Beginners/dp/1945051027/ref=sr_1_10?crid=JWYDQ4H8RIMR&dib=eyJ2IjoiaSJ9.fh4RXxfDPinoc4ggpChk_JbF495FVXV8oWgfRbn3L8u3eZlWsALRxgoIc860lhoB5tKitIQnY_NLxNiuD5M3jFO6Ms_z7dyPUAqyFjr--EuC70kBg8vHZmPqkO9rtuGFDG7RsvtyCyaXmVUyCL_xSbo_fYc5Esl73Ef3ZctJ8kwYxwo7xLwXJjWGWY6WVn4hTCBJTgkmPel7QMrTaEM7X8UmwD67LELynq42XaxD5n0.utsWZp2mXJDKdhIKN2keFdyNkLNUBmZOfo7K3hn2g6c&dib_tag=se&keywords=robert%27s+rules+of+order+2026&qid=1789507444&srefix=Rober t%27s%2Caps%2C514&sr=8-10)

Robert's Rules: QuickStart Guide

https://www.amazon.com/Roberts-Rules-QuickStart-Simplified-Beginners/dp/1945051027/ref=sr_1_10?crid=JWYDQ4H8RIMR&dib=eyJ2IjoiaSJ9.fh4RXxfDPinoc4ggpChk_JbF495FVXV8oWgfRbn3L8u3eZlWsALRxgoIc860lhoB5tKitIQnY_NLxNiuD5M3jFO6Ms_z7dyPUAqyFjr--EuC70kBg8vHZmPqkO9rtuGFDG7RsvtyCyaXmVUyCL_xSbo_fYc5Esl73Ef3ZctJ8kwYxwo7xLwXJjWGWY6WVn4hTCBJTgkmPel7QMrTaEM7X8UmwD67LELynq42XaxD5n0.utsWZp2mXJDKdhIKN2keFdyNkLNUBmZOfo7K3hn2g6c&dib_tag=se&keywords=robert%27s+rules+of+order+2026&qid=1789507444&srefix=Rober t%27s%2Caps%2C514&sr=8-10

Mark Your Calendars!

An editable version of the registration is available at dkgcolorado.com under the "Events" tab

Colorado DKG Fall Board Meeting

October 17, 2026

Franciscan Retreat Center, 7875 Deer Hill Grove, Colorado Springs, CO

Colorado DKG Spring Board Meeting

Courtyard by Marriott
Denver/Golden/RedRocks, 14700 West 6th Avenue, Golden, Colorado 80401

Colorado State DKG Convention

**June 8-10, 2027, DoubleTree at Lincoln Park,
919 7th Street, Greeley, Colorado**

MY Librarian

Follow the River, by James Alexander Thom is an historical fiction book that is based on true events. In 1755, Mary Draper Ingles was a young mother, married to William Ingles. They lived in the settlement of Draper's Meadow, which was founded by Mary's family. William and Mary had two young sons named Thomas and George, and Mary was pregnant with a third child.

In July of 1755, while the French and Indian War was in full swing, the settlement was attacked by Shawnee warriors. Mary, her two sons, and her sister-in-law were taken captive. The trek through the wilderness is described in great detail in the book, as is the treatment of the captives. The descriptions of how Mary and the other captives were treated are heartbreaking but Mary's determination to escape and get back to her husband is inspirational.

All along the trail to the Shawnee encampment, Mary took note of various landmarks along the river beside which they traveled. George, the younger son, died despite Mary's best efforts to make things easier for him, but Thomas became a favorite of the braves of the tribe and adjusted well to the life of a captive.

Once the group reached the encampment, Mary was assigned to manual labor. She worked to the point of exhaustion each day. Mary gave birth to her baby and this caused another problem for Mary. How could she escape with a newborn infant? After seeing how her baby and son were treated by the tribe, Mary made the impossible

decision to leave her daughter behind, along with her son, Thomas.

The rest of the book details Mary's escape with another captive, an old woman. Mary continually had to put her children out of her mind and focus on getting home to William, who she knew would never give up on finding her.

Once begun, the book is difficult to put down, even in the uncomfortable parts. Mary's courage in the face of great obstacles is amazing. In so many accounts of these types of incidents in American history, women did not survive and if they did, they made themselves content to remain with their captors. This book will stay with you for a long time.

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**
- **Any deadlines published in any other medium are incorrect, if they differ from these.**
- **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

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.

An editable version of the Colorado State Leadership Conference registration and the state convention registration is available at dkgcolorado.com under the “Events” tab. If you prefer, download and print the copy below.

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
COLORADO STATE ORGANIZATION

Fall Executive Board Meeting Official Call: Saturday, October 17, 2026
Franciscan Retreat Center Stonehaven Meeting Room #7876 7740 Deer Hill
Grove, Colorado Springs, CO 80919

To: Voting Members: The Colorado State Executive Team (includes Elected State Officers, Appointed Personnel, and Immediate Past State President), additional members of the Executive Board including Past State President, all current Chapter Presidents, and State Team Leaders.

Also invited are the following non-voting members: State Team Members, all DKG members statewide, and guests.

Please share the Call, Registration Form and Guest Room Information with your state Team Members and chapter members. Only the voting members will receive the CALL from the executive secretary, so please forward this document to all.

From: CO State President: Dr. Laura Kuniansky
laurafromdurango@gmail.com CO State Treasurer: Lilly Vigil
cmcer1@msn.com;
CO State Executive Secretary: Beth Barzdukas barzdukas@live.com.

- **The Fall Executive Board Meeting will be held Saturday, October 17, 2026.**
- All guest rooms will be booked through Colorado State Organization Delta Kappa Gamma.
- CEU credit will be available: check the line on the registration form.
- Proposed Budget will be printed if you request it on the form.
- The meeting will run from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.
 - Check-in will be from 8:30-9:00 am.
 - Welcome/call to order at 9 am.

- The board meeting registration is enclosed.
- Coffee will be served in the meeting room at 8 am on the day of the meeting.

Driving Directions: From I-25, Take exit 149 toward Woodmen Road onto E. Woodmen Rd. Keep right toward E. Woodmen Road. Go for 3.0 miles on E. Woodmen Rd. Turn left onto Franciscan View. Turn right onto Deer Hill Grove. Turn left onto Franciscan View. Our meeting room is in back of the two white modular buildings. Our building faces east and has steps in front with handicapped parking behind the building.

Lodging: A block of rooms has been reserved for our use at the Franciscan Marian Building for Friday, October 16, 2026. The room rate is \$100 per room per night for 2 guests per room. There are 4 rooms that can accommodate 3 guests per room. The rate for a 3-guest room is \$110.00 per room/night. Please decide with your roommates how the room will be paid. To explain further, if one of the people booked in your room does not show up, the fee of \$100 or \$110 must still be paid. There are no TV or phones in the guest rooms. WiFi is available in the guest rooms. Some rooms require a shared bathroom between multiple rooms. If you arrive at the Franciscan before 5 pm on Friday, October 16, check in at the main office. The person on duty from the Franciscan will give you a code and keys to your room. If you need to arrive after 5 pm, please phone the Franciscan at 719-955-7025 and they will give you a code over the phone to unlock the door to get into the Marian Building.

Please Note: Deadline for reserving a room is October 1, 2026. On October 2, all unused/unreserved rooms will be turned back to the Retreat Center. There will be no charge for extra rooms turned back to the Retreat Center by October 2. All guest rooms must be booked through Colorado State Organization, Treasurer, Lilly Vigil, on the registration form. Zeffy may be used. See Zeffy link and/or QR code. If you use Zeffy, please be sure to send your registration form to Lilly.

Cancellations: Registration fee of \$10 may be refunded if illness prevents the member from attending. According to Franciscan policy stated on the contract, any sleeping/guest rooms released within 14 days (**after October 2**) up to and including the day of arrival will be charged the full room rate for the number of nights booked. Guests who do not arrive, arrive late, or leave early are still responsible for all the nights booked whether they are here or not. **Inclement weather situations will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Meals

Breakfast will be catered by Lil' Howards BBQ and Catering:

Applewood Smoked Bacon, Country Sausage

Breakfast Potatoes

Scrambled Eggs

Biscuits

Fresh fruit tray and assorted juices

Coffee, Hot Tea furnished by Franciscan Center

Lunch will also be catered by Lil 'Howards:

BBQ Beef Brisket, BBQ Chicken

Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Garden Salad (Ranch/Italian)

Rolls and butter

Apple Cobbler

Choice of Pepsi products, iced tea, or LaCroix Lemon or Lime Sparkling Water

"If you are able to bring a new or gently used item that we could use as a door prize, we would sure appreciate it."

All information is available on the state website.

Questions? Call Laura Kuniansky at (970) 799-8056, Lilly Vigil at (970) 409-9312, or Beth Barzdukas at (970) 518-1066.

FRIENDLY REMINDER: Please send Webmaster, Heidi Ragsdale, any PowerPoints and any projected presentation materials members want to project on screen for reports electronically to Heidi at stemismyfuture@gmail.com no later than October 1. **If you or your team plan to submit a motion, please contact Beth or Laura by September 15, 2026. Any proposal that is received will be attached to a second email and sent to you before the meeting.**

COLORADO STATE ORGANIZATION

2026 Fall Executive Board Meeting Registration

(Please print and complete all the information)

Name:

_____ **Title First Last**

Address:

_____ **Street or PO Box City Zip +4**

Phone: _____ Chapter _____

Email: _____ CEU Credit ____ Yes ____

No Chapter Office or Team _____ State Office or

Team _____

To receive CEU credit, one must be present at all sessions and lunch. Networking throughout lunch is necessary to receive CEU credit.

PHOTO RELEASE: By your attendance at this event, you are granting permission to be filmed, videotaped, or photographed by any means, and you are granting full use of your likeness, voice, and words without compensation.

Meeting Registration: Cost \$10 = \$ _____ **Breakfast:**

Cost \$18 = \$ _____ **Lunch:** Cost \$22 = \$ _____

Guest Room Reservation:

2-person Room \$100.00 Cost \$100 = \$ _____ 3-person

Room \$110.00 Cost \$110 = \$ _____ **TOTAL COST**

= \$ _____

Food Allergy? Please

list _____ Prefer

vegetarian entrée? YES _____ NO _____

Please Print 2026-2027 Proposed Budget for me? YES _____ NO _____

Please review the chart of rooms in the DKG block, and list your choice of room by room number:

First Choice: _____ Second Choice: _____ Third Choice: _____

Names of those who will be sharing the room:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Number of Occupants Allowed	Room Number	Room Type
1	13	Single (Share bath with #14) One Single bed
3	14	Triple (Share bath with #13)
3	16	Triple (bath in room)
2	17	Single/double-share bath down the hall
2	18	Single/Double-share bath down the hall
2	19	Single/Double-share bath down the hall
2	20	Single/Double-Share bath down the hall
2	21	Single/Double -share bath down the hall
2	24	Single/Double-share bath down the hall
3	26	Triple—Share bath with #25 (#25 not included in our block)

If you prefer to pay online either by credit card or from a personal account, use the following link or QR Code at Zeffy which will be available from August 26, 2026 until September 30, 2026. You can pay for Registration, Meals and Room at this link.

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/fall-board-meeting--2026>



Make check payable to: Colorado Delta Kappa Gamma Society
Mail check and form to: Lilly R Vigil
Zeffy Payment send form to: 217 W. 2nd St.
Leadville, CO 80461-3619

Questions? Call Laura Kuniansky at (970) 799-8056
Lilly Vigil at (970) 409-9312
Beth Barzdukas at (970) 518-1066

All information is available on the state website.

THE FOLLOWING MOTION WILL BE CONSIDERED AT THE FALL BOARD MEETING:
The Scholarship Team moves that scholarship money awarded during a fiscal year will be deducted from the scholarship balance for that fiscal year, regardless of when checks are written or cashed.

**The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Omega State Colorado
Nomination Form for State Officers/Nominations Committee**

State Office_____

Office to be filled: President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President,
Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary. Officers serve two (2) years,
2027-2029

State Nominations Team _____

Area I: Xi, Chi, Alpha Mu, Alpha Chi

Area V: Zeta, Mu, Omega, Alpha Delta, Alpha Iota

Area VI: Beta, Eta, Iota, Rho, Phi, Alpha Alpha, Alpha Omicron

Nominations Team serves four (4) years, 2027-2031

Dr.

Name: Miss _____

Mrs.

Address_____

Home Phone_____ **Cell**_____ **Email**_____

Delta Kappa Gamma Chapter_____

Present Professional Position (use extra sheets if needed)_____

Educational Background_____

Delta Kappa Gamma Experience (List Most Recent First)

Chapter_____

State_____

Regional_____

International_____

Community Organizations (church, civic, service clubs, volunteer work)_____

Submitted by_____ **Phone**_____

Chapter_____ **Area**_____ **Email**_____

Please include a paragraph of no more than 250 words from the nominee stating why she would like to serve Omega State in that capacity as well as a wallet size photo.

Complete and return this form by November 17, 2026:

Mary Jo Pollman, Team Leader

1573 S. Josephine St., Denver, CO 80210 email: pollmanmj1@outlook.com

DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Colorado State Organization

Guidelines for Colorado State Officers

All nominees shall have served as chapter officers and or committee chairmen and should have interest and time for the position.

State President shall:

- have served on the state Executive Board within the last six (6) years,**
- have state committee experience,**
- have attended state and regional conferences/conventions,**
- have interest and time for this position,**
- have organizational ability and the ability to delegate,**
- be able to speak well and communicate effectively.**

The President, or her designee, shall be an ex-officio member with vote on all teams except the Colorado State Organization Nominations Team.

The President shall serve as leader of the Colorado State Organization Executive Team. The President shall serve as leader in the planning of Colorado State Organization Conventions in odd-number years.

First Vice-President shall:

- have served on the State Executive Board within the last (6) years. The First Vice-President shall serve as team leader of the Colorado State Organization Educational Excellence Team.**

The First Vice-President shall perform such duties as assigned by the President.

Second Vice President:

The Second Vice-President shall serve as team leader of the Colorado State Organization Leadership Development Team in planning the Leadership Conference in even-numbered years.

The Second Vice-President shall perform such duties as assigned by the President.

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.

Corresponding Secretary :

The Corresponding Secretary shall read important correspondence at all Colorado State Organization Executive Board and Colorado State Organization meetings. The Corresponding Secretary shall prepare and have printed the Colorado State Organization Directory each year and distribute copies to all members of the Colorado State Organization Executive Board.

State Officers will serve for the 2027-2029 biennium

The Nominations Committee needs one representative from each of the following areas: Area I, Area V, Area VI.

Area I, V, VI need to nominate one (1) representative each, to serve on the Omega Nominations Committee for four (4) years. (2027-2030) The following chapters lie within those areas.

Area I: Xi, Chi, Alpha Mu, Alpha Chi

Area V: Zeta, Mu, Omega, Alpha Delta, Alpha Iota

Area VI: Eta, Rho, Phi, Alpha Alpha

The role of the Nominations Committee is to seek the best leadership available, present the slate of officers, prepare the ballot and conduct the election.

Check with chapter members as to their interest in serving at the state level and get their permission before nominating them for office. All nominees nominated by their chapter and all pertinent information and letters of support or other pertinent information needs to be sent to the Nominations Committee Chairman. Nomination forms can be downloaded at dkgcolorado.com. It is helpful if the information on the form is typed. Please include a recent wallet size (2 ½" X 3 ½") photo.

DEADLINENovember 17, 2026

**Mary Jo Pollman, Nominations Team Leader
1573 South Josephine St.
Denver, Colorado 80210
pollmanmj1@outlook.com**

