

DKG-Alpha Omega Rosette

September 2021



President's Message

Susan Fujii

Dear Ladies of Alpha Omega,

I do hope all of you had a very safe, relaxing, and enjoyable summer! It has been fortunate that we were able to maintain contact throughout most of the year with meetings on Zoom. In fact, with your recent input, we will be meeting this month on Zoom.

It feels like such a long period of time since my last letter to you. Since May, my two-year term as Area III Director of DKG California has ended. A new Area Director, Eileen Blood-Golden, has been appointed, and she has been busy all summer working diligently for all the chapters in Area III. As your Chapter President, I will keep all of our chapter members informed of DKG activities and events.

We are definitely looking forward to a new year, one filled with many informative speakers and activities. I wish to express my appreciation to our current Executive Board: Virginia Williamson, Linda Henika, Nonnie Moore, Susan Levy, Bonnie Hansen, Janie Dobbs (and myself) for their outstanding support in sustaining our chapter, as well as all of you, for your continued support toward making Alpha Omega a "5-Star Honor Chapter" once again!

Lastly, the poll regarding our meeting days and times revealed that most members preferred Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. We look forward to "seeing" all of you on **Thursday, September 23rd, at 6:00 p.m. via zoom.**



Alpha Omega Chapter Calendar

2021 - 2022

Thursday, Sept 23	Chapter Meeting on Zoom	6:00pm
Thursday, Oct 28	Chapter Meeting on Zoom	6:00pm
Thursday, Nov 18	Chapter Meeting on Zoom	6:00pm
Thursday, Dec 9	Tentative Holiday Party	6:00pm
Thursday, Jan 27	Chapter Meeting on Zoom	6:00pm
February	Virtual Meeting	
Thursday, March 24	Chapter Meeting on Zoom	6:00pm
Thursday, April 28	Chapter Meeting on Zoom	6:00pm
Thursday, May 26	Chapter Meeting on Zoom	6:00pm





Alpha Omega Members' Corner

Virginia Williamson

It's a new year of DKG! We're beginning with chapter meetings on Zoom, and though they will be virtual meetings, it will be wonderful to "see" everyone! Perhaps before the year ends we'll be able to meet in person. Regardless of how we meet, we are determined to continue to be a vital chapter that makes a difference for our members! We are a sisterhood, and that means something.

As we think about our Alpha Omega Chapter, I want to recognize a few things that I think are important about membership in DKG... in other words, the "why" of membership:

- DKG is first and foremost a supportive group of women educators who understand the importance and rigor of teaching. For those of us retired, we know that supporting our schools and educators is critical, and we are aware of legislation that affects education. For those still in the classroom, DKG is a place to find the support and help that is sometimes needed. Participation in THAT gives members a chance to give back to a working teacher and make a difference in that way.
- DKG encourages leadership development. There are so many opportunities to serve in leadership positions with the assurance that guidance and support will be there when needed. Opportunities exist at the chapter, state, and international level for those who are willing to serve.
- DKG supports educators. We provide scholarships or grants to women educators who are completing their preparation programs and are just entering the profession, and we have provided mini-grants to classroom teachers. Now more than ever, these are much-needed and appreciated supports.
- DKG gives an opportunity for outreach to the community. Here are just a few of the ways we've contributed to our community:
 - We have partnered with CALICO for a number of years. This outstanding program supports and advocates for children and teens who have been abused. We've contributed blankets, stuffed animals, and books, and we've volunteered our time to support their fundraising activities.
 - We continue to support the Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday celebration held at Chabot College by serving on the committee with the City of Hayward and Hayward Unified School District.
 - We've supported Eden Youth and Family Center – Particularly the child development center
 - We've supported FESCO and literacy programs at the Hayward Library.

Members' Corner, continued:

With all of that in mind, particularly now that we are not yet out of the pandemic, it seems important for members to find ways to stay connected. We are so fortunate that we have a wonderful newsletter and chapter website to keep us informed. I've been reading some suggestions for staying connected on the DKG California website, www.dkgca.org, and one idea I thought was interesting is to establish "DKG Buddies." We could each have a buddy, either by choice or randomly, then buddies would make a special effort to connect with each other by phone, email, text or snail mail... just to touch base frequently. Maybe you have a good idea as well, and if so, please share!

However, we choose to stay connected, here's to Alpha Omega Chapter as we begin 2021-22!



Alpha Omega Chapter, Delta Kappa Gamma Meeting Minutes, May 26, 2021

Janie Dobbs, Acting Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Susan Fujii, President, at 4:06.

PRESENT: Susan Fujii, Virginia Williamson, Evelyn LaTorre, Bonnie Hansen, Deanna Stemm, Donna Goldenstein, Susan Levy, Nonnie Moore, Janie Dobbs,

GUESTS: Brittany Akermon, Pia Duong,

I. WELCOME: Susan welcomed our members and guests.

II. SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS' PRESENTATIONS

A. Brittany Akermon, Scholarship Recipient. Third grade teacher at Palma Ceia Elementary School in Hayward

DKG-Alpha Omega awarded Brittany Akermon \$471 to purchase sets of chapter books at students' reading levels during shared and small group reading. She purchased several small sets of books for leveled reading instruction, as well as one class set of "The Wild Robot Escapes," the second book in the series. She felt that her students were spending too much time in front of the computer screen during distance learning and she noticed that students were skipping lines and having trouble following along with the e-books. She wanted her students to experience the joy of reading an actual book. With real books in hand it's easier to teach comprehension skills like finding text evidence. She was able to distribute these chapter books easily with her monthly supply pick-up for students. Based on the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment at the beginning of the year 52% of her students were reading below third grade level and only 48% of her students were reading at third grade level. Now, 32% of her students are reading below the third grade level and 68% of her students are reading at the third grade level or higher. Brittany is very grateful to our chapter for helping her provide authentic reading experiences with engaging text.

B. Pia Duong, Scholarship Recipient. Second grade teacher at Bowman Elementary School in Hayward

Minutes, continued:

DKG-Alpha Omega awarded Pia Duong \$500 to purchase noise cancelling headphones for two classrooms at Bowman School. Students were having difficulty concentrating during virtual lessons as many of her students had to tune-in to the classroom at their parents' work, or in the car, or with siblings next to them also trying to follow along with the virtual instruction. She says that this has greatly improved their concentration, focus and learning. She is so grateful to our chapter for having provided her the opportunity to help her students with distanced learning.

III. BUSINESS:

A. Approval of Minutes - April 28, 2021

Janie Dobbs **Moved**, Evelyn LaTorre **Seconded. PASSED**

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report –April 28, 2021

Donna Goldenstein **Moved**, Bonnie Hansen **Seconded. PASSED**

Nonnie continued to say that we currently have \$2,161 in the budget. She paid Janie Dobbs \$239 for the purchase of Scholastic Books for CALICO and has paid \$25 to the members who attended the CA DKG Virtual Convention. She was asked about our dues and how much of the money stays with the Alpha Omega chapter. Of the \$89 that active members pay, \$21 stays with our chapter and the rest goes towards the State DKG Chapter. \$15 of the reserved members' dues stays with our Alpha Omega chapter.

We discussed what we should do with the \$110 left over from our personal donations to purchase roses for Marilyn Baker-Madsen. We discussed creating a Humanitarian/Altruism Fund for the remaining \$110.

Approval: Evelyn LaTorre **Moved**, Nonnie Moore **Seconded. PASSED**

C. Correspondence

- Bonnie Hansen said that she had not received any correspondence, but she did recently visit a reserve member of Alpha Omega, Jean Groth who sends all of us her regards.
- Donna Goldenstein read a letter from CALICO expressing their gratitude for Alpha Omega's donation of 36 books for the children ages 10+ who they serve.

IV. DKG CA VIRTUAL CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS:

Evelyn LaTorre, Virginia Williamson, Susan Fujii

The members who attended the convention all agreed that DKG California put on an outstanding convention and did a great job running it all virtually. It was creatively designed. Participants clicked on different emojis to get to different rooms at the convention, including a lounge, recipe room, a self-care room and all of the workshop sessions. The cost was \$25 to attend. One of the positive features of holding the convention virtually is that everyone can now go back and listen to any of the recordings of the workshops of interest, instead of being constrained to only attending a few workshops. The workshops are available to view for one month.

Minutes: Continued

Evelyn gave a workshop about Writing Your Own Memoir that was very well received. Her published books include, *Between Inca Walls* and *Love in Any Language*. Other workshops included: Engagement Through Technology, Zoom, A Google Formula for Success, Building a Website, Podcast Projects, Social Justice, Legislation, Schools for Africa, Finding Your Roots, Road Scholar Travel Adventures and more.

Highlights for Virginia were the wonderful Keynote Speakers, Mr. Stephen and Lisa MacKenzie. She thought their messages were especially touching and motivating. She also appreciated the “Order of the Rose” and “Celebration of Life” ceremonies.

Susan attended a Business meeting with all chapter presidents. The DKG California budget was adopted and they reviewed and ratified new Standing Rules and Procedures.

The Keynote Speakers at the convention were spectacular. Mr. Stephen’s presentation, “Taking the “dis” Out of DisABILITY” motivated listeners to look beyond what they perceive as someone’s disability and realize the strengths, skills and talents of all people. His message focused on our power to create a more inclusive and better future for all.

Keynote speaker, Lisa MacKenzie delivered a strong message of “Choosing Love,” a social-emotional learning program inspired by 6-year-old Jesse Lewis who was killed at Sandy Hook. His mother, Scarlett Lewis, was inspired by her son’s message of love before he died and turned her grief into a mission of educating others about how to manage their emotions. The premise is that people who can nurture, heal and love do not want to harm themselves or others. The “Choosing Love” curriculum is in many schools and districts, including Livermore, and Susan mentioned that our group might be interested in learning more and bringing it to Hayward and Fremont Schools.

All DKG members, potential members, students of education, and guests with the interests of key women educators: aspiring, working, and retired are eligible to attend the convention.

Our Alpha Omega Chapter was honored at the convention during the Order of the Rose ceremony, qualifying for having gained three new members. (Thank you Evelyn LaTorre, Deanna Stemm, and Toni Scholobohm.)

Also, Nancy Hansen, from our own Alpha Omega chapter was recognized for her 55 years of service.

Also, during the convention, there was a Celebration of Life. The names of members who have passed between 2019-2021 were named. and a white rose was placed in their memory. Helen Condos and Ardelle Ward, our beloved Alpha Omega sisters, were honored and celebrated.

V. NEW STATE OFFICERS FOR 2021-2023

- A new slate of officers were approved at the convention and include: Toni Cook, President;

Minutes, continued:

Kathlan Latimer, First Vice-President; Charlotte Wilmeth Street, Second Vice-President; DeLaine Wallace, Recording Secretary; Barbara Bearden, Corresponding Secretary; and Carol Boyd, Parliamentarian.

- We are so happy that Carol Boyd from our own Area III and Global Awareness Committee Chairman will serve as the state parliamentarian officer.
- Their bios can be found in March 2021 CA DKG *California Connection* Newsletter. To access the newsletter, [click here](#).

VI. SHARE STATE LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

- Virginia Williamson, Evelyn LaTorre and Susan Fujii shared their extensive leadership experiences beyond our chapter and highlighted the many benefits of serving. There are vast opportunities for learning, collaborating and developing new skills. Serving in different capacities introduces one to new ideas and is a way to become more knowledgeable about current legislation and issues in California, the United States and Worldwide. They have all made lifelong connections with the inspiring women they have met along the way. It is important to note that you do not have to wait to be nominated or asked for a State leadership role. Anyone can volunteer to take on these leadership roles.

Virginia has served as Area III Director, which gave her an opportunity to visit all chapters in our area. Following that she served on the Membership Committee and has been a member of the Communications & Technology Committee and Editor of *California Connection*, the state newsletter, for two biennia. She will continue as Editor of *California Connection* and will be a member of the Marketing & Publicity Committee for the 2021-23 biennium.

Evelyn was initiated to Zeta Alpha in 1981, where she was Chapter President for two separate terms. She served as an Area III Director and on the state Personal Growth & Services, Nominations and Membership Committees. Her international positions have included Leadership Development and International Strategic Planning Committee. She was also an International Speaker to Guadalajara, Mexico. She has been published in the DKG Bulletin in 1990 and 1995. Evelyn will serve as the DKG California Global Awareness Committee Chair for the 2021-23 biennium.

Susan is currently serving as Area III Director. This is a two year assignment. Susan appreciates the professional training she has received and the opportunity for collaboration with women leaders (18 Area Directors).

- Virginia reminded us about the informative DKG State and International websites. She encourages all of us to check them out. The California DKG website can easily be accessed at www.dkgca.org. It does not require a member ID or password. The International website can be found at www.dkg.org. The international website does require your member identification number and a password. Your membership identification number is on your membership card and on the address label of any publication you receive from DKG International. Nonnie Moore

Minutes, continued:

Legislative Report

Nancy Wales

The Legislature passed a compromised 2021-22 budget. The budget contains \$262.6 billion in total spending and puts \$25.2 billion into reserves, which includes \$4.5 billion in the Public School System Stabilization Account (PSSSA). The PSSSA is expected to reach its threshold of 10 percent in 2022-23. Should new deposits materialize in the future, they would be diverted to infrastructure and deferred maintenance costs until the fund is below 10 percent.

The budget has maintained a balance of funding to prevent it from hitting the Gann Limit over a two-year period, including adjusting funding to avoid triggering the Gann Limit this fiscal year. However, the budget continues to include \$8.1 billion in tax cuts to residents with an income of up to \$75,000, bringing the new total in Golden State Stimulus payments to \$11.9 billion.

With a total of \$93.7 billion in 2021-22, Proposition 98 is funded at a historic high, reflecting a new high in per pupil spending of \$21,000 per student. Total TK-12 funding, including one-time federal relief funding, brings total funding to \$121.7 billion, reflecting \$21,152 per student. The budget fully repays existing TK-12 deferrals totaling \$11 billion. Increases the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) base grant by 5.07 percent, reflecting a \$3.2 billion ongoing Proposition 98 increase. In addition, the LCFF concentration grant percentage is increased from 50 percent to 65 percent of the base grant, adding an additional \$1.1 billion.

The budget amends the existing independent study program and school closure statutes to allow schools and families with high-quality alternative options to utilize alternatives to in-person learning when necessary. Universal transitional kindergarten is extended through a diverse delivery system, which phases-in children eligible until full-implementation is reached in 2025-26, while “rebenching” the Proposition 98 guarantee to provide ongoing funding for this expansion at \$2.7 billion, upon full implementation.

With the highest funding ever, our working members are facing one of the worst environments ever. School administrators are tangling with teachers, parents and all other stakeholders over protocols for Covid-19. Schools are also facing huge teacher shortages, substitute shortages, paraprofessional shortages, shortages of PPE for specialty classes and constantly changing rules from federal, state and county health departments. Third grade teachers are facing children who have not been in formal learning classrooms since First Grade, and not even a full year of first grade. Support personnel are being pulled from their jobs to be substitute teachers in these very difficult classrooms. Meanwhile, support systems for students and teachers are cast aside. Some teachers and other school personnel are refusing to be vaccinated. This adds to the current crisis in our schools. Anyone working in schools faces the risk of bringing the virus home to their loved ones. No one is talking about giving teachers any compensation for the added burdens they now face on a daily basis.

Please support teachers in any way you can.



Next Chapter Meeting

September 23, 2021
6:00 pm

We are starting our meetings via Zoom again this year. Based on a poll of best days and times to meet, this school year our meetings will be on Thursdays at 6:00 pm. Looking forward to seeing all of you again via Zoom. All of our meetings will have the same Meeting ID number and Zoom link.

You can log-on in one of two ways:

- Click on this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83949737268>
- Or go to zoom.us, click on “Join a Meeting”, Enter Meeting ID: 839 4973 7268

Zoom will also send you a reminder before each meeting.

See you there!



Book Notes

By Alpha Omega Members

Submitted by Janie Dobbs:

The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christi Lefteri follows the story of Nuri and his wife Afra whose lives have been shattered by the Syrian War. It follows their perilous journey as refugees from Syria to Turkey, Greece and finally England where a cousin awaits them offering hope of finding some meaning in their lives after suffering unspeakable loss and disposition.

The Four Winds by Kristen Hannah is a story about the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl and the difficult lives of migrant workers in California in the 1930's. After being disowned by her parents, abandoned by her husband, and forced to leave Texas because of the unrelenting drought and dangerous dust storms, Elsa takes her children west in search of a better life. This historical novel is a heart-wrenching description of the harsh realities, sacrifices and courage of the thousands of displaced migrants struggling to survive.



Financial Highlights

September 2021

By Nonnie Moore

Beginning Balance \$2576.53

23 Active Members 7 Reserve



Resignations: Barbara Bishr and Cindy Breeden Johnson



The Penne Ferrell Fund Literacy Award Due November 1

DKG California, through the “Support Team for Emerging Professionals” (STEP) committee, awards money each year to beginning teachers to help them build their classroom libraries. This award is known as the **Penne Ferrell Fund Literacy Award**. A bequest to DKG California from the estate of Penne Ferrell was the basis for the establishment of this award. Penne was an outstanding member of Epsilon Omicron Chapter in Orange County. A dedicated teacher and a lover of books, Penne instilled the joy of teaching in the new teachers she mentored, always encouraging enthusiasm and excellence in being an educator.

If you know a woman educator who is in her **first through third year of teaching**, please consider submitting her name to receive an award for an amount up to but not exceeding \$200, intended to finance the cost of books, e-books, or reading apps. These *reading/literacy* resources are intended to supplement curriculum or for a classroom library.

The Penne Ferrell Fund Literacy Award Guidelines

Who is eligible to apply for the award and how often?

- A non-Delta Kappa Gamma member
- A woman educator who is in her first through third year of assignment and who is a prospective Delta Kappa Gamma member
- An educator who has not been a prior recipient

What does the award fund?

- The award is intended to finance the cost of books, e-books, or reading apps. These *reading/literacy* resources are intended to supplement curriculum or for a classroom library.
- A recipient may receive an award for an amount up to but not exceeding \$200.

Penne Ferrell Award, continued:

How are applicants notified after applying?

- A limited number of applications will be funded pending availability of funds. When the award application is approved or declined, the applicant will be notified by email from the committee.
- DKG members are encouraged to donate to the Penne Ferrell Fund regularly.

What is the Application Process?

- Click on the [Application Form](#) to apply.
- Applicants must be recommended by a current DKG member.
- The information of the recommending DKG member and the applicant is required to complete the form.
- All fields must be completed in order to submit the application. Print a copy of the confirmation page for your records. If a confirmation page does not appear, your

Application Process, continued:

application has not been submitted.

- Applications are due no later than **November 1**. Late applications will not be considered.
- The committee will review the application and determine the eligibility of the applicant.
- Selected awardees will receive an electronic letter of recognition and be funded in a timely manner.
- The certificate and award check should be presented to the awardee at a chapter/area event or at her place of employment. Photos of such events should be sent to the committee at dkgcastep1@gmail.com to be included in the convention presentation the first weekend in May.
- Recipients are required to email a photo of the resources funded by this award to dkgcastep1@gmail.com by the end of April.
- Recipients will be acknowledged in the DKG California Convention program.

Please consider recommending a beginning teacher (first through third year of teaching) for this award! Feel free to contact Virginia Williamson at 510-604-1744 or ginnydon@pacbell.net if you would like more information.



September Celebrations

Happy Birthday to:

Norma Sakamoto - 2
Nancy Wales - 24
Norine Dolyniuk - 25



Wishing you an abundance of fun and happiness on your special day and always.



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Seven Purposes

1. To unite women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship;
2. To honor women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education;
3. To advance the professional interest and position of women in education;
4. To initiate, endorse, and support desirable legislation in the interests of education and of women educators;
5. To endow scholarships to aid outstanding women educators in pursuing graduate study and to grant fellowships to women educators from other countries;
6. To stimulate the personal and professional growth of members and to encourage their participation in appropriate programs of action;
7. To inform the membership of current economic, social, political, and educational issues to the end that they may become intelligent, functioning members of a world society.



September Celebrations

Happy Birthday to:

Norma Sakamoto - 2

Nancy Wales - 24

Norine Dolyniuk - 25

Wishing you an abundance of fun and happiness on your special day and always.



DKG Alpha Omega Highlights



Shared Reading: The Wild Robot Escapes



Brittany Akemon talks to us about how she purchased a set of chapter books for her third grade class with her scholarship fund.



Pia Duong from Bowman Elementary demonstrates how the noise cancelling headphones she purchased for two second grade classrooms have helped students' concentration.



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