



BLOOMING ROSES

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Oregon State Organization – Alpha Epsilon Chapter

Vol. 62, No. 6 – March, 2022

Kathy Martell, Newsletter Editor

*The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Mission Statement:
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional
and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.*

Chapter Officers:

Presidents: Kathy Martell
Website: Cindy Ryan
Rec. Sec: Shawnie Murphy
Corr. Sec: Deb Freels
Treasurer: Jill Snyder

Guests: Brenda Jensen- OSO President, Jean O’Grady- Operation School Bell, Mary Payne-DKG member from Washington State, Karen MacDonald- SKSD English Language Acquisition, Laurel Rightmer- Salem for Refugees Director of Operations and Development

Announcements/Reminders

1. Beta Beta’s Spring Tea – May 7 – 1:00-3:00p.m. It’s time to get signed up if you would like to go. You would be welcome to carpool with Kathy, Marie, and Lark. Any questions about signing up, ask Kathy or Marie.
2. April dinner get together on **April 4th, 5pm at La Margarita’s back room on Ferry St.** We will be collecting items for our Spring Conference basket(s) and discussing our chapter rejuvenation.
3. State Spring Conference – Oregon Garden in Silverton, **April 29-May 1**

- Saturday is the actual conference day filled with workshops and keynote speakers. Non-members are invited to attend that day and have a special registration form. That form can also be used by members if you just plan on coming for Saturday.
- First Timers Stipend – If the first State Conference/Convention you ever attended was last year virtually, you are eligible for the first timer’s stipend. Use the form that Kathy emailed you the day of our last meeting. The stipend comes from funds from the Unique Boutique.
- The theme for our basket(s) this year is “Self-Care.” Turn in your donations to the basket on April 4th at our dinner/get together. Jill will add the items collected last year which we didn’t use.
- If you want to go to the State Conference and need more information, please contact Kathy.



Hello Everyone!
This is going to be a **SPECIAL EDITION** of our newsletter. It will contain the March minutes, March program articles and a new idea for our chapter structure to think about before we settle on officers and programs. Please read it over carefully, give me feedback, let me know if you could be one of the leaders for something if we choose to go in a new direction and we’ll discuss it all at our in-person gathering on April 4th! Let’s make this a new, rejuvenated beginning. We are all leaders and have special skills/talents to share so we can do this!

Kathy

Lark Abrahamson 3/15
Shirley House 4/9



March 7, 2022 Minutes/Announcements
by Shawnie Murphy

Members Present – Kathy, Marie, Charlotte, Lark, Cindy, Jill, Sue and Shawnase

- Alpha Epsilon will be hosting the Hospitality Room this year with Alpha Omicron Chapter from District 4. We will need volunteers to do this on **Friday 2:00-5:00pm** and **Saturday 9:00-11:00pm**. Sign up to help will be done at our April 4th dinner/get together.
- Chapter Revitalization Workshop – Friday April 29 during the day. Each chapter can have up to 4 people attend. It will be led by someone from International. The state organization will pay half a room for two people together on Thursday night. More info will be available after Kathy attends the March 10 Zoom meeting with chapter presidents.

Due to the late hour of our meeting after the presentation, we quickly discussed chapter officers and a new chapter structure. Kathy will discuss this as a special article later in this newsletter.

4. **May 11, Wednesday – 4:45pm** – Tour of the Salem City Library led by Karen Fischer – Dinner 5:30 at Marco Polo and Karen will join us as our guest.

5. June – Time and Place TBD – New Chapter Officers’ Training

Program Highlights by Shawnie Murphy

Salem for Refugees- Laurel Rightmer

The mission of SFR is to bring people & resources together to empower refugees to thrive. Their vision is to see all refugees in Salem as valued, thriving, contributing members of our community. SFR strive to provide high quality services to our new neighbors by partnering with Oregon resettlement agencies, local businesses, non-profit organizations, faith communities and hundreds of volunteers throughout Salem. SFR supports refugees through volunteer Mentor Teams, Resource Teams, donations of furniture and house-hold items, and financial assistance. SFR is currently serving individuals from 14 different countries. Over 50% of refugees are under the age of 18. SFR is anticipating an influx of 125,000 new refugees arriving to the US in 2022.

They need your help in accomplishing their mission of empowering refugees to thrive!

- Sign-up for their monthly e-newsletter at info@salemforrefugees.org

- Attend the Welcoming our New Neighbor meeting the first Monday of each month 12-1pm via zoom (if you sign up for the newsletter you will automatically receive the zoom link to the monthly meetings).
- Become a Host Home- Temporary housing for 2 weeks to 1 month.
- Amazon wish list- Items will ship directly to SFR
 - Restart Kits (essential household items)- 8 different options listed on the SFR website under Donate (See list at end of newsletter)

Salem-Keizer School District- Karen Macdonald

In Karen’s role as an English Language Acquisition program assistant, she assists refugee families with accessing education services. Currently SKSD serves students who speak 96 different languages. The most common language after English is Spanish, (about 10,000 students speak Spanish), followed by Marshallese, Chuukese, Russian/Ukrainian, Pashto/Dari, Arabic and Swahili. Karen works closely with counselors and Community School Outreach Coordinators to connect refugee families with resources in the community and within the SKSD. At enrollment Karen works with a team of staff to coordinate transportation needs, food needs, enrollment paperwork, along with a health screening by a SKSD nurse. Karen follows the family to ensure a smooth transition to their school with connections to staff and resources.

Program Highlights by Marie Mueller **I’d Rather Be Back Home...**

But if I can’t be home, it is wonderful to be where I am welcome and safe.

So say the refugees, adults and children, who are now living in Salem, Oregon, from nations around the world. “Back home” varies, but most of Salem’s most recent new residents are from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Syria, Pakistan, and Afghanistan—with Ukraine most likely added to the list if Putin’s War doesn’t end.

Our guests, Laurel Rightmer, from Salem for Refugees, and Karen Macdonald, from our local school district, shared stories and statistics with us on the status of refugees in today’s world:

- 82.4 million people are displaced

- 26.4 million are out of their home nations
- 50% are under 18
- >1% get to be resettled in a new nation, leaving many in refugee camps.
- The US has accepted 125,000 refugees in 2022.
- 101 Afghans have come to Salem since November 2021; 50 of that number are children.

Who is a refugee? has a precise definition from the US government: “Those forced to flee or displaced by war, violence, and persecution.” Those who are lucky enough to be sent to Salem, find a warm welcome at the local airport from Salem for Refugees. Using guideline from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and a great deal of common sense and human kindness, 500 volunteers, 40 faith organizations, 50 local organizations, a liaison groups such as World Relief (national resettlement organization) provide a bridge from a former life to a new life in Salem.

Find out more by visiting
<https://www.facebook.com/salemforrefugees/>

Karen McDonald from the Salem-Keizer School District rounded out our knowledge with data from the local schools:

18,000 students are in English as a Second Language training.

96 languages are spoken at home by Salem-Keizer students during 2021-22. Ms. McDonald listed some:

- Spanish—far the most frequent, from Mexico through Central and South America
- Nepali
- Pohnpeian
- Urdu
- Uzbek
- Igbo
- Yapese
- Swahili (41)
- Arabic (62)
- Pashtu/Dari (39)
- Russian/Ukrainian (190) << and that’s before Putin’s War began
- Chuukese (234)
- Marshallese (300)

Salem Keizer Community Service Outreach Coordinators and volunteers from Salem for Refugees both work with S-K Schools to help new residents find a foothold in the community and in the educational system:

- Language classes
- Culture classes

- What is a school bus and how do you ride it? How do I know where to get off? (Each student has a card to give to the bus driver in case it’s needed.)
- What does it mean to be a student in an American school?
- Where can I find work to support my family?
- How can I find a place to live?
- How will I furnish my home?”
- Where can I buy food?
- Which American school lunches fit my religious and cultural beliefs?
- What is that food? Should I eat it? Is it halal? Is it vegan? Is that meat? What kind?

Together, both programs made for a long evening, but a well-worthwhile one. We learned a lot!



**Congratulations,
Cindy!**

Recently
named WOU’s
Division of Ed
and Leadership
Chair, starting
this summer for
3 years.

**ALPHA EPSILON CHAPTER IS
VERY PROUD OF YOU!**

Chapter Restructuring Idea by Kathy Martell

Coming off of two years of our meetings being on Zoom, working teachers stressed to the max and retired educators tired of being isolated at home, I think we’re all looking for something different. I for one would like to see us try something new next year that will renew our friendships, make our gatherings fun again, improve individual mental health, and still allow us to contribute to our community, and to excellence in education.

One way we can do that is put most of our efforts into special projects in our community and come

together on the months there are no state programs to relax at a dinner out and share what projects we have been contributing to as individuals and/or as an Alpha Epsilon Chapter or small group of us.

DKG State is planning a Fall Conference and a Spring Convention for next year. They might be on Zoom if the gas prices keep rising or in person. If we put extra efforts into attending those state programs together if in person, we will be growing professionally as individuals and developing stronger friendships within our chapter. In the winter months we could schedule a Zoom program and invite other chapters around the state, especially District 5, to join us. Then we don't have to worry about driving at night and what the weather will be like.

We have managed to have a number of outstanding Zoom programs these past two years that would have been interesting to state members. Monday night's program was outstanding and so timely. Our program about the Salem Health's Neonatal Unit, Jarnelle Robinson, World Fellowship Recipient's presentation and Superintendent Christy Perry's presentation were all outstanding and worthy to be shared. At the State Level, Bonita Fillmore and Dana Murphy with the help of the State Educational Excellence Committee, the State Technology Committee and Zoom, have presented outstanding presentations to all of us. Let's combine efforts and time to reduce stress and improve the health of our chapter.

Here's an idea for next year's schedule, starting right after school is out.

- June, July, and August maybe schedule some socials and/or field trips. Our wine outing in September last year would have been different (maybe more fun) without the yellowjackets. The Steering Committee for the Imagination Library hopes to launch the program sometime during the summer and will need our help.
- August/September – Retired members pick a working member to help as school gets underway; help organize classroom, take treats, send cards of encouragement, whatever we can do to help them out more
- Oct. or Nov. Attend the Fall Conference together whichever month it is scheduled
- The other month dinner out and discuss our project adventures and school successes
- December – Have a Christmas gathering

- January or February – Special, outstanding Zoom Program and invite other chapters
- The other month, have a game night on Zoom or in person. Maybe make it an in-person Saturday BUNCO Event and have a special recipe salad lunch and share recipes.
- March – Dinner out and discuss project activities – What we'll be assigned to do at the Spring Convention
- April – Attend State Spring Convention
- May – Dinner out to discuss how the year went and how do you want to proceed for the next year. Collect dues for the next year.

Special Projects Ideas

1. Continue book labeling for Marion and Polk Early Learning Hub.
2. Support the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library's Steering Committee with their progression and implementation. They're writing grants now and hope to launch in the summer.
3. Develop a project(s) we can do with Salem for Refugees.
4. Others?

Officers or Position Leaders Needed!

1. ???? - State and International Communicator (instead of a President) Collect the information and share with chapter, via communicating at our dinners out and writing an article for the newsletter.
2. Cindy - Web Master – Thanks Cindy
3. ???? - Chapter Treasurer (Maybe Jill will continue?)
4. Project Coordinators (share info at dinners and write articles for the chapter newsletters)
 - Kathy – Imagination Library and Early Learning Hub Activities (Newsletter?)
 - ???? – Salem for Refugees if we take this on
 - ???? – Photographer
 - ???? - Meal Coordinator (Where do we eat? Make reservations)
 - ????- Special Events Coordinator (get a committee together to plan Field Trips, Christmas Celebration, Go to a show or maybe a play, etc.)
 - ???? – State Meetings Coordinator (organize who's going, sharing transportation)

Please give some special thought to chapter structure, special projects you might want to be involved in and chapter leadership. If we change our structure, what leadership role can you fill?