



# Alpha Sigma Report

The Newsletter of the Alpha Sigma Chapter, Kitsap County, Washington

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Vol. 11, #3 Spring 2021

Contact the Alpha Sigma Chapter via e-mail: [<dkgkitsap@yahoo.com>](mailto:dkgkitsap@yahoo.com)

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

## A post-pandemic future arrives

Most DKG members have taken advantage of the opportunity to get their COVID vaccines, either because of their teaching circumstances or because they have met age eligibility. Now that all members can receive the vaccine, chapter leadership is examining its post-pandemic future.

How shall meetings be organized (virtual, in-person, hybrid)? What helps members connect to the chapter and participate in its program of work? If your meeting attendance was down last year during Zoom meetings, why was that? What do members value about in-person DKG activities and meetings? What programs and topics would you find most engaging?



These questions and others are part of a survey members are asked to complete by the end of June.

The survey is available on the chapter web site home page. Once downloaded, members can respond to the questions and then send them in to Dr. Sandra Cross. Answers will be

used by the Educational Excellence/Program Committee to plan “meetings” and topics for the 2021-2022 year.

No one planned for the year of the pandemic and it definitely had negative impact on the lives of many. But it also presents the chapter with the opportunity to re-assess and re-envision itself. It invites serious conversation around what makes DKG important, encouraging members to re-invest and re-ignite the energy that makes DKG chapters work. Survey authors Cross and Kathy Caldwell, co-first vice presidents, are asking members to give thoughtful responses so that Alpha Sigma Kitsap serves the needs of its members, noting that “we do know we want to be able to learn, visit, serve and continue to be together this [coming] year.”

Survey responses are requested not later than June 29, 2021. The link to the survey is:

<https://www.dkgkitsap.weebly.com>.

Check it out!

DKG International website: [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)

Washington State website: [www.dkgwa.org](http://www.dkgwa.org)

Alpha Sigma Chapter, Kitsap website:

<https://dkgkitsap.weebly.com>



<https://www.facebook.com/alpha.sigma.dkg/>

## Upcoming Events:

End of Year Evaluation and Needs Survey  
due June 29, 2021

Membership dues deadline.

International Conference

Portland, Oregon

July 8—10, 2021

register at <https://www.dkg.org>

Alpha Sigma Kitsap Chapter Meetings

in-person beginning

September 14, 2021

Washington State Fall Board Conference

Yakima Red Lion & Virtual

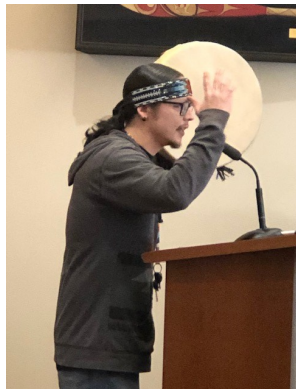
October 2-3, 2021

*DKG Purpose #1*

*To unite women  
educators of the world  
in  
genuine spiritual fellowship.*

## Outstanding Educators 2021

Fourteen Kitsap County educators were recognized as Outstanding Educators on April 27, 2021 in a Zoom ceremony attended by over 75 colleagues, friends and family. Bearon Old Coyote and the Song and Dance Group from Chief Kitsap Academy opened and closed the event with original music of welcome and celebration. Old Coyote and the students honored the educators for the hope they bring to students. Chapter president Andrea Neault spoke about the challenges educators faced this past year and thanked the Suquamish and S'Klallam People for making COVID vaccines available to school personnel.



In her address to the group, Poulsbo Mayor Becky Erickson complimented teachers for their dedication and outstanding performance this past year as they adapted to the difficult teaching circumstances presented by on-line instruction to perform “miracles” in learning. U.S. Congressman Derek Kilmer shared his commitment to educational legislation that recognizes the professionalism of educators and the need to support their work with students facing trauma, food insecurity, and homelessness as well as academic challenges. He identified some of his former teachers as “superheroes,” and classed the individuals being recognized by DKG as similarly deserving of our admiration and support.

Deputy Superintendent Erin Murphy, from the Bainbridge Island School District, discussed the challenges presented to all educators during the pandemic and how everyone quickly stepped up to find innovative ways to create meaningful remote/virtual lessons for their students. The fourteen honorees were all commended for their extraordinary efforts during these trying times.

This is the eleventh year that the DKG chapter has honored local educators. “We are so proud to be able to recognize these educators who give so much of themselves to our children,” explained DKG President Neault. “This event is a small show of appreciation for the work they do.” Over 200 educators have been recognized since the program began in 2011. Honorees were nominated by administrators or fellow teachers and selected on the basis of their record for exemplary teaching, student success in the classroom, leadership in education and community service. This year’s recipients came from both public and private schools.

Stephanie Codorniz special education, and Shayla Sharlow, grade 4, at West Hills STEM Academy, Bremerton School District, were honored for their contributions to creating a positive environment for learning. Sarah Buck and Penny Irvin, both special education teachers from Armin Jahr Elementary, Bremerton, were commended for their “whatever it takes” attitudes and ability to use multiple pathways to increase student learning.

Pine Crest Elementary, Central Kitsap School District, teachers Amy Horan, a reading specialist, Ann Kim, grade 4, and Abigail Schuette, special education, were recognized for their collaboration and creativity to include all students and families during on-line instruction. Klahowya family and consumer sciences teacher Shannon Steedman also went out of her way to make on-line access and alternative learning available to her students, including opening her labs for hands-on work.

Kelley Daniels and Averil Story, who teach kindergarten at David Wolfle Elementary in the North Kitsap School District, were honored for the engaging curriculum strategies they used during on-line teaching and for their collaboration. Rebecca Neeley, career technology and American Sign Language instructor from Kingston High School, North Kitsap School District, serves as a role model for students with disabilities and an advocate and mentor for many students of diverse needs.

Megan Feeney, special education teacher/coordinator at Chief Kitsap Academy, Suquamish Tribal School, was commended for establishing meaningful partnerships with parents to accomplish learning goals for students. Eric Bockelie, who teaches criminal justice courses at the West Sound Skill Center, and Bainbridge Island High School math teacher Lisa Hale were hailed for their relationship-centered teaching styles and for focusing on equity for all students.

Starbucks regional manager, Katie Akers, shared the company’s support for public education and the work of local teachers by providing each honoree with a Starbuck’s gift card. Starbuck’s support is greatly appreciated, acknowledged Outstanding Educator Committee member Mary Jensen. The chapter also appreciates the commitment of the committee, which included Jensen, Kelly Rosenbach, Erin Murphy and Carol Linscott, chair. Outstanding work on their part to make the virtual event special.

# Member profile: what the State Strategic Action Plan research found

This space is usually dedicated to featuring one of the Alpha Sigma Kitsap members, sharing her talents, her story and passions as an educator and some facts that might not be known—a way to get to know members and build community. This edition, however, is focusing on the statistics about women educators in Washington State. It presents a picture of members who might be, of the vast opportunity in our state to seek new members. It invites the reader to put names to these numbers and to begin the membership nomination process.

As part of the process to develop a 5 year Strategic Action Plan for Washington State DKG, the planning committee collected and analyzed data from member surveys and statistics from a June 2020 OSPI study. The latter reported on the number of women actively working as educators in Washington State. The data was reported in terms of both teachers and administrators, by ethnicity and by grade span. Below is listed the data for the northwest region of the state (ESD 114, 121, and 189), covering the Olympic and Kitsap Peninsulas, King and parts of Pierce County and counties west of the Cascades up to the Canadian border.

**Number of K-12 women educators:**

- 19,614 educators (including classroom & specialists)
- 2,413 administrators & principals

**Number by Ethnic Group (exclusive of Caucasian and unknown ethnicity)**

- 3,768 educators
- 435 administrators & principals
- American Indian/Alaska Native 59
- Asian 1,389
- Black/African American 611
- Hispanic/Latina 1,204
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander 114
- 2+ multi-ethnic 689

**Number by Grade Span**

PK-K	3,153	6-12	5,925
1-5	6,929	Other Sec.	1,885
Other Elem.	3,763	Other admin.	4,513

These numbers attest to the huge reservoir of potential DKG members. Many of these women would meet the criteria for membership in the our Society. In addition, there are women educators at the post-secondary level and in non-traditional positions who would qualify. The challenge is for current members to get creative and think of ways to inform these women about our organization, the benefits of membership and how they can become involved with chapters.

The Chi Cowlitz County Chapter has formed a partnership with a local community college to offer mentoring, training and presentations to students. In exchange, the college personnel have become engaged with and members of their chapter. Those and other “outside the box” strategies could result in significant growth for DKG. The women are there!

**DKG Washington State Organization**

**Strategic Action Plan 2021 - 2026**

**Membership**  
 GOAL: Strengthen chapters, support members, and recruit new members, yielding an increase of 7% each year.  
 ➤ Assess chapters' demographics for potential leaders: ethnicity, age, career status, etc. to be aware of leadership.  
 ➤ Implement a plan to retain, recruit, and support new members. Example: Rose Trio for each new member—one recruits, one interacts, one involves and retain current members.

**Leadership**  
 GOAL: Recruit, train, and support new leaders at the chapter/state level with at least 15 new leaders each biennium.  
 ➤ Promote programs made easy, interactive activities to raise engagement, leadership scenarios, technology, leadership styles, encouraging attendance, motivational programs, mentorship, etc.  
 ➤ Market leadership opportunities available through International and State Leadership Management Seminar, Holden Fund, Corcoran WSD scholarships/scholarships, etc. on a personal one-on-one basis in chapters.

**Our Values**  
 TBD

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

**Our Vision:**  
 Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide

**Program**  
 GOAL: Annually implement and measure the impact/effectiveness of four programs that advance educational excellence and social justice/equity, personal & professional development, and service and global awareness.  
 ➤ Assist chapters in developing goals and plans to incorporate programs that include personal growth (wellness and technology), professional development, social justice, political education issues, and service.  
 ➤ Promote programs at the state and chapter level to support early-career educators and other active teachers, including clock hour offerings, mentorships and volunteer opportunities.

**2021-2022 DUES NOW DUE**

Please send your 2021-2022 dues (\$85) to Donna Faulk, Alpha Sigma Kitsap treasurer: P.O. Box 1752, Poulsbo, WA 98370. She must send them to International by July 1. If you need to split your payment, need dues assistance or have some other concern, Donna can help you: <dsfaulk@comcast.net>.



## Alpha Sigma Chapter Year - at - a - Glance

Due to the continuing threat of the COVID pandemic, there will be fewer meetings in Fall 2020. Members will be contacted and committee work will continue via Zoom and other on-line platforms.

September 15, 2020  
2020—21 Kick-off/Orientation  
Zoom meeting

November 17 2020  
Morrow Manor Transition Homes  
Virtual Tour and  
Presentation  
Zoom Meeting

**CANCELLED**

February 16, 2021  
Seminar—open to all educators  
Clock hours available  
Social Justice in Our Community  
Zoom Webinar

March 16, 2021  
Morrow Manor Update  
Zoom Meeting

**CANCELLED**

April 27, 2021  
Outstanding Educator Honoring  
Zoom Celebration

April 20, 2021  
Dealing with Anxiety  
Zoom Meeting

April 26—May 2, 2021  
WA State Virtual Convention  
Olympia Red Lion

May 18, 2021  
Book Circle/ Induction  
Andrea's home

July 7—10, 2021  
International Conference  
Portland, Oregon

Donations collected for World  
Fellowship all year.

## President's Post :

Happy spring, everyone! I can't believe that it is already the end of May. Only a few short months ago I was watching snow blow around the roof of my house, and this afternoon I was finishing up planting colorful annuals in my large floral pots outside on my driveway. I really love spring and the renewal it brings. As the country opens up and starts to heal from the pandemic, I find my heart opening up and hope starting to glimmer in my soul.

I think that in spite of obstacles, our chapter had a meaningful year. We supported Kingston Cares with their November community meal. Some continued the good work with KIAC. Over 80 people logged in for the Social Justice in Kitsap County seminar, which featured excellent speakers (one of which was our very own Martha Little). A group of four very committed members worked extremely hard on making sure the Outstanding Educator awards presentation could continue. We mourned the loss of our own Judy Miller, a dedicated, loving mother and teacher who will be missed greatly. And early this month at the State Convention, Susan Fritts passed the State Presidential gavel to Pat Bennett-Forman. Congratulations, Pat!

I want to personally thank Sandi Cross, Kathy Caldwell, Carol Linscott, Kelly Rosenbach, Mary Jensen, Erin Murphy, Jackie Finckler, Pat Bennett-Forman, Donna Faulk, Beth Schneidler and Kate Moriarty for their time, work, and talent this year.

What will next year bring? To answer this question, you will need to let us know through our **annual program survey**. Copies were sent to members in an email from me dated May 16, 2021. They are also available on the chapter web site under the Chapter Business tab. Please give us some ideas...this is your chapter, and we need YOUR input to plan a successful 2021-2022 year. Let's see a 100% return rate!

*Andrea Neault, President 2020-2022*

COVID Relief: so much fun being in-person May 2021 and vaccinated!



# News from around the State

## State Spring Convention

The State DKG Virtual Convention held April 26—May 1, 2021 provided variety, connections, and many valuable workshops on topics that ranged from technology to racial bias, from marine science to mental health, and from chapter success stories to ideas for connecting to early-career educators. Attendees could earn up to 10 clock hours for participation.



2019-2021 State President Susan Fritts passes the gavel to 2021-2023 President-elect Pat Bennett-Forman. Both are members of the Alpha Sigma Kitsap Chapter.

## Portland hosts International Conference 2021

Save the date! July 7—10, 2021 for the next big DKG International Conference to be held in Portland, Oregon. The conference will include a variety of professional and personal development workshops as well as training for DKG officers. Hotel reservations are filling quickly so make your reservation now. (It can be cancelled without cost up to 48 hours in advance.) The conference registration fee of \$160 is non-refundable. For more information see <https://www.dkg.org>.

Finished reading your newsletter and copying down all the important dates and information into your calendars? Want to help increase our membership?

You can assist in spreading the word about DKG and the Alpha Sigma Chapter by **sharing this newsletter** with former members, teachers in your school (or former school), and other educators you think might make good DKG members. Make as many copies as you want and distribute them to individuals; put them in faculty lunchrooms; add a copy to a basket of fruit or plate of



Rhodys at Bloedel, May 2021

photo by Pat Bennett-Forman

## “Legislative” Update:

There is a new committee at the State DKG level focused on Education Policy and Legislation. The committee was added to the state structure when approved through By-law change at the Spring 2021 Convention.

The purpose of the committee is to support advocacy for women’s, children’s and educational issues; to promote involvement in non-partisan legislation regarding women, children and educational issues; and to inform members of legislation through non-partisan communications.

The committee formalizes a role that has become increasingly important in the state over the past biennium, recognizing that taking a more proactive role in advocating for education policy and legislation is both consistent with DKG purposes and makes state actions more relevant and visible.

A new Advocacy Handbook is now available on the WA State DKG website to assist members in examining proposed legislation and coaching them on effective testimony writing and delivery. See <https://www.dkgwa.org/advocacy.html>.

*The Alpha Sigma Report* is published quarterly: Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer. To submit articles for the *Alpha Sigma Report*, send materials to Pat Bennett-Forman, editor, <[bennettforman.p@gmail.com](mailto:bennettforman.p@gmail.com)>. The editorial board reserves the right to alter the length of material submitted to fit allowable space. Materials must be received two weeks in advance of publication: November 15, February 15, May 15, August 15.

Alpha Sigma Chapter, Washington, of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International for Key Women Educators, serves the north end of Kitsap County, including Bremerton, Central Kitsap, North Kitsap, and Bainbridge Island School Districts. For information on meetings, membership or scholarship information, contact us at <[dkgkitsap@yahoo.org](mailto:dkgkitsap@yahoo.org)> or <http://dkgkitsap.weebly.org/>.