

Omicron News



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
NC DKG – North Carolina State Organization
Omicron Chapter Newsletter
Wilson/Greene Counties, NC
Region II
August, 2023



VOL.78, NO. 1

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

From Omicron President - Christine Gilmore

It's a Brand-New School Year!!!

This is year 20 for me!! I cannot believe that I can officially say that I have taught for 20 years!! It baffles me some days when I look back at my first year of teaching. I am forever grateful to my teacher assistant and the support of my grade level. I would not have been able to do it without them. Speaking of support, I spoke recently with the new WCS elementary school teachers during their orientation week. A few teachers are asked every year to speak about our experiences and answer their questions. This is one of my favorite things to do every school year. I love seeing all those new faces!!! While we could have talked all day and still not covered all their questions, I hope that we calmed some of their nerves as they start their first year.



A little recap from our May meeting.... Mahalia Witter-Merrithew was the guest speaker at our meeting at the Wilson County Public Library. She was so excited to learn that a few of our members taught her during her time as a student. She spoke about her love of Wilson, opening Casita Brewing Company in downtown Wilson, and her desire to continue to help nonprofits in Wilson County. We also met our potential new members – Jennifer Long, Claudia Spenser, and Emily House. They will be inducted during our September meeting.



I am looking forward to our programs for the 2023-2024 year!! We are going to have great speakers and programs. Our September 5th meeting will be here soon!! We will meet at the Frank L. Eagles Community Business Center at Wilson Community College at 5:30 pm. We will once again have a salad potluck dinner. More information is further down in the newsletter. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Jami Woods, the new president of Wilson Community College. She will share her vision for the college. We will also be inducting



the new members that we met during our May meeting. We would like to bless our active teachers and their colleagues at this meeting, as well. If you are able, please bring a donation of school supplies. Some favorite items are white or colored copy paper, Post-It notes, pencils, Sharpies, Flair and InkJoy pens, Mr. Sketch markers, marbled composition books, Band-Aids, and dry erase markers. Of course, any donation would be very much appreciated.

We are working hard on securing speakers and locations for the rest of the year. For our November meeting, we are planning a joint program including a service project with Gamma Mu.

Warm regards,

Christine

From NC DKG President – Hilda Parlér



Members, welcome to the 2023-2025 biennium. My theme is **Recruit! Retain! Recognize! NC DKG Forever Strong!**

I chose the triangle because it is the strongest geometric figure which symbolizes the goal for NC DKG to remain forever strong no matter what.



During the first year of my biennium, I will concentrate on increasing membership across the state by promoting an increase of 2% or more and provide support to chapters to robustly recruit.

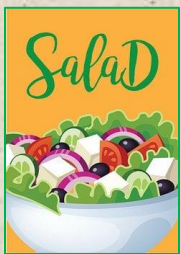
I will coordinate with the Communications/Marketing Committee to provide marketing strategies that chapters can use to attract new members including college students and reach out to former members.

My second focus will be on supporting chapters in conjunction with the Membership/Expansion Committee to assist those chapters that may be facing dissolution to use the *Teach to Lead* document provided by the U.S. Department of Education to define the cause or causes why they may dissolve and to create SMART goals and implement a plan to prevent dissolution.

Along the way, I will seek updates on the two aforementioned areas for progress and report the results the second year of my biennium at the state convention 2025.

Thank you for your trust and confidence in me. With your support, dedication and commitment NC DKG will forever remain strong as we find ways to recognize and celebrate each other as we do the work of NC DKG.

Omicron September Meeting



Omicron members will meet on September 5, 2023 at 5:30 pm in the Eagles Center (Wilson Community College). The hostesses for this meeting are Meredith Fychok, Marsha Irvin, and Jean Yelverton.

We plan to have a salad dinner at this meeting. The hostess committee will provide paper products, cups, cutlery, and drinks (water and tea). Omicron will supply the desserts. We ask that each attendee bring a salad to serve 3 to 4 people. Our suggestions for salads are potato, fruit, pasta, meat (chicken, tuna, or other meats), vegetable (greens), or congealed salads. All of you are so creative you may think of other types of salads. If so, feel free to bring your choice of salad. We look forward to a good meeting with lots of interesting food! See you on the 5th!

If you are able, please bring a donation of school supplies.

Chapter Achievement Award



The NC DKG Chapter Achievement Award has been replaced by the Rose Awards, The Rosebud Award and The Order of the Rose. Both awards serve as a guide for successful chapters. This year Omicron earned two awards: The Order of the Rose Award and the Communication Excellence Award! Way to go Omicron!

From Dot Carter – NC DKG Educational Foundation

Reminder: Proposals for Foundation grants are due on September 30, 2023. If you would like to attend a professional meeting or a seminar in your field, or if you need funds for an educational project in the classroom or the community, consider one of the many Foundation grants that are available to NC DKG members. Go to the NCDKGEF website (www.ncdkgef.org) to see what is available.

Here are some NCDKGEF grants available:

- Continuing Education for Professional/Personal Growth
Educators statewide
- Learning/Literacy Project Grant
Educators statewide
- Dr. Judith B. Carlson Endowment Grant
Educators statewide supporting enrichment activities, travel, fieldtrips, outdoor education, and other experiential learning
- Margaret Church Endowment Grant
Grades 4-12 educators statewide supporting leadership development
- Dr. Barbara Day – Dr. Mary M. Cauley Endowed Fund for International Study and Travel through Attendance at Professional Conferences and Conventions
Educators statewide
- Groves-Little Early Career Educator's Grant
Educators, 4 years or less experience, employed in NC public schools
- McCall Gifted Education or Fine Arts Grant
Educators statewide
- Linda G. Richards Endowment Grant
NC public school female high school volleyball coaches



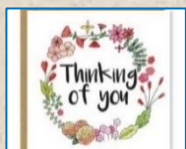
Application deadline: September 30, 2023

Community Soup Kitchen Volunteers

Omicron's next scheduled Soup Kitchen date is **Monday, October 30**. An email will be sent to those who expressed an interest in volunteering. If you did not sign up and would like to volunteer, please contact either Martha Wrenn or Marsha Irvin. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us.



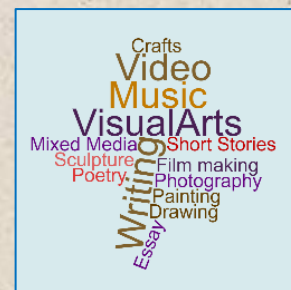
From Susie Pope – Member News



If you have news of members, please contact Susie Pope, Christine Gilmore, or Marsha Irvin.

DKG Gallery of Fine Arts

Are you an artist? A photographer? A writer? A musician? Omicron would like one or more of its members showcased in the DKG Gallery of Fine arts. Application Forms, with the new July 2022 revisions, and judging rubrics are found at gallery.dkg.org/. Contact Dedra Davis, NC DKG liaison to the International Art Gallery, with questions. Dedra encourages members to showcase their talents. The submission periods are August 15 – September 15 and January 15 – February 15. Please consider sharing your talents!



From Jerri Moore – Omicron Website



Visit <http://wilsonomicron.weebly.com/> for all the latest Omicron news. Jerri has our site updated to include meeting dates/times/locations, newsletters, tributes, and photos.

Omicron newsletter

Please let Marsha know if you have any announcements, suggestions, articles, etc. for our newsletter. You may call/text Marsha at 252-230-3830 or send her an email.



Online DKG News

The 2023 July/August issue of *DKG News* is available online-only on the DKG website. Have you set up an account on the DKG website? All you need is your membership ID number which is printed on your DKG membership card. Go to <http://www.dkg.org> and set up your account!

The Summer 2023 issue of *NC DKG News* is available online. Go to <https://www.ncdkg.org/> to read the exciting things happening in NC DKG chapters. NC DKG members and chapters are encouraged to send information to be used in the NC DKG News to Carol Bostian, Editor. Newsletter Deadlines to submit information are August 1(Fall), November 1 (Winter), February 1 (Spring), and May 1 (Summer).

Resources Tab on DKG Website Has Wealth of Information



As chapters prepare programs, invite new members, update resources, or need tools of any kind, the Resources tab of the DKG website is a good place to start. It is a member's go-to resource for anything DKG! It has music, logos, sample brochures and flyers, the ceremonies' scripts, and tools for communication and marketing, scholarship, finance, and general chapter tools, such as a new member kit, chapter strengthening tips, best chapter projects list, and fundraising ideas. Become familiar with what is there so that when you or your chapter needs ideas, support, or tools, you know right where to go! (Log in to have access to it.)

2023 – 2025 NC DKG Officers

Hilda Parlér President
Carolyn Lane First Vice President
Janie Webb Second Vice President
Carol Bostian Secretary



Omicron Officers For 2023 – 2024:

President Christine Gilmore
Vice-President Lisa Lewis
Recording Secretary Joan Satterly
Corresponding Secretary Susie Pope
Parliamentarian Rosalie Bisette
Treasurer/Editor Marsha Irvin
Past President Marsha Irvin



Committee Chairs for 2023-2024:

Educational Excellence CommitteeCarol Putney
MembershipMeredith Fychok
ScholarshipPat Campbell
NominationsIsabel Fulghum / Amy Nichols
RulesJean Yelverton
CommunicationsDana Skinner
PublicityKristin Lamond
FinanceMartha Wrenn
Strategic Action PlanDot Carter
Westview House ProjectBarbara Brinson
WebsiteJerri Moore



International Website: <https://www.dkg.org>

NC DKG Website: www.ncdkg.org

Omicron Website: <http://wilsonomicron.weebly.com>

Region II Director: Ellen Benton, Sigma

Important Dates for Omicron Members

August 15 – September 15, 2023 DKG Art Gallery submission window open
September 5, 2023 Omicron Meeting, 5:30 pm, Wilson Community College
September 16, 2023 NC DKG Fall Executive Board meeting in Greensboro, NC
September 30, 2023 NC DKG Educational Foundation Grants applications due
October 1, 2023 *Bulletin: Journal* submissions due
October 27, 2023 NC DKG Founders Day
November 1, 2023 Cornetet Individual and Seminar PD Awards applications due
November 1, 2023 *NC DKG News* deadline
December 1, 2023 DKG Ignite (LMS) applications due
December 15, 2023 Chapter Directory due to regional director
December 15, 2023 Bulletin: Collegial Exchange submissions due





Minutes of the May 8, 2023 Meeting (Wilson County Public Library)

President Christine Gilmore welcomed the Delta Kappa Gamma members at 5:30 PM at the Wilson County Public Library. Twenty-six members were in attendance. Jean Yelverton gave a wonderful inspiration about "Ways that You Can Tell You Are a Real Teacher" I think we can all associate with many of the things she said.

Meredith Fychok then introduced our guests for today -Jennifer Long, Claudia Spenser, and Emily House.

Beth Searcy then introduced our speaker for the day, Mahalia Witter- Merithew of Casita Brewing Company. Mahalia went to public school here and many of our members taught her. Beth told us a little of her remarkable story before coming back to Wilson, her hometown, in 2017. She taught English as a second language in Korea, and lived and worked in Denmark, England, and New Hampshire. Mahalia is the business manager of the brewery that she and her husband own and operate. They have given over \$60,000 to local nonprofits. In 2021, she was named a Hometown Hero and in 2022 a small Business of the Year.

Mahalia then talked about how Wilson is so different from the Wilson she grew up in. She accented our diversity and our eye on the future. She feels her travel experiences has enabled her to see what Wilson needs to improve on. She has a love, respect, and admiration for teachers who work daily with the future generation. Thank you to Mahalia for all you do to make Wilson a better place.

Marsha Irvin made a correction in the minutes of the February meeting. Our February report should state the beginning balance as of November 3, 2022 was \$6870.75. A motion was then made to approve the February minutes by Rose Bisette. Diane Hooks seconded the motion and the minutes were approved. Marsha then gave the Treasurer's Report. Our beginning balance as of February 27 was \$6470.15. Income was \$40.00 from donations to early teachers. Expenses were -Dress for Success- \$50.00, Charge for new checks-\$68.98, and postage -\$12.60. Our ending balance as of May 8 was \$6,378.57. That is made up of--\$5,022.01 in checking, Westview House-\$54.35, Early Career teachers-\$165.00, and Scholarship Fund-\$1,137.21

Marsha reminded everyone that our dues are due June 1 (\$75.00 and \$12.00) for raffle. They can be paid today or sent to Marsha.

Susie Pope, Corresponding Secretary, sent a card to Tasha Weatherington on the death of her father.
Committee Reports:

Carol Putney reported that we gave \$10.00 gift cards to 32 beginning teachers in elementary, middle, and high school.

Convention Report was made. Christine said that we received the Order of the Rose Award and the Communication Award for our Newsletter. Our incoming President 's theme is Recruit, Recognize, and Retain. Christine also said that she went to three sessions on Legislative, Retaining Membership, and Scanning Picture Books. Jean Yelverton said that there were no major rules changes at this time, but there will be a way for us to vote on line in the future. Jean also said next year's convention will be in Durham. Marsha Irvin mentioned that our next turn in the Soup kitchen is July 31 and she will be contacting members about that.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Satterly, Recording Secretary
