

Omicron News



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
NC DKG – North Carolina State Organization
Omicron Chapter Newsletter
Wilson/Greene Counties, NC
Region II
October, 2022



VOL.77, NO. 2

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

From Christine Gilmore

Happy Fall!



I have to say that fall is my favorite season!!! I love the colors of all the leaves, the smell of the fire pits, and the cooler temperatures. Well...it is North Carolina, so the attempt at cooler temperatures. It also helps that both my birthday and wedding anniversary are in October. We planned our mountain wedding in October just so we could have that beautiful color in the background. I hope that everyone is enjoying the somewhat cooler temperatures and the beginning of the leaf changes. We just got back from the mountains for our anniversary trip and the changing colors are in full force.

A little recap from our September meeting...Robin Williams of Wilson Education Partnership (WEP) was our guest speaker. She did a wonderful job educating us on what the WEP does for our schools, students, and community. I think we also taught her about Delta Kappa Gamma. We also would like to welcome Tricia Hester as our new member. Thank you to our Hostess Committee for planning a delicious salad dinner. Thank you to everyone who brought a yummy salad. Also, thank you to everyone who brought school supplies for our active members. The supplies went to Mrs. Skinner, Ms. Lamond, Mrs. Fychok, and Mrs. Gilmore's classrooms, as well as Mrs. Hester's office. Thank you so much!

Our next meeting will be on Monday, November 7th at 4:30 pm. We will meet in the new YMCA on Nash Street. Mrs. Kathie Davis and Ms. Edwina Lucas will be our guest speakers. They will talk with us about Y-Gig, the Y's new middle school after-school program. We will also have NC DKG State President, Beth Winstead, as our guest for the meeting. The main entrance of the YMCA is located facing Pine Street. There is street parking along Nash Street. There is also a parking deck located behind the Y on Broad Street. We will not have refreshments at this meeting, so you may want to bring a bottle of water. As one of our annual service projects, we are asking members to donate new or gently used middle school aged chapter books to the program. You may bring those to the meeting. I have also created an Amazon Wish List. If you order the books through Amazon, they will be shipped directly to me then I will bring them to the meeting. Even with Prime delivery, give plenty of time for shipping. If they come in after the meeting, I will deliver them to Mrs. Davis or Ms. Lucas on one of my bi-weekly visits to the Y. The link to the Amazon Wish List is <http://amzn.to/3DhYiE1>. You can also use your phone to scan the QR Code. If you prefer



to make a donation, you can bring it to the meeting. I will make sure chapter books are purchased and delivered. At our September meeting we voted to use \$75 of our Westview House book fund to purchase chapter books for Y-Gig. Using the \$75, I placed an order with Scholastic for over 20 chapter books including 2 small group book sets that will be here in time for the meeting.



Election day is coming!! This year, it is Tuesday, November 8th, the day after our next meeting. I am happy to say that Wilson County Schools has made that day a workday since a few of our schools are polling places. I am encouraging all of our members to vote. My husband and I have a tradition of going to vote before we go to work. Our running joke is that we usually cancel each other out on a few of the races. Perfect case of opposites attract. Using the site <http://www.nc.gov/living/voting>, you can find your polling place and a sample of your ballot. You can also print an absentee ballot if you cannot make it to your polling place. With all the choices, I printed our sample ballot for our address so we can do a little research on the candidates before voting. Go Vote!!

2021 – 2023 NC DKG Theme

Warm Regards,

Christine Gilmore
Omicron President

"Linking the Past, Present and Future"



From Meredith Fychok – New Member Information

Please bring your recommendations for new members to the November 7th meeting. Be sure to include the perspective member's name, school (if applicable), phone number, and email address. If you cannot attend, please email or text me your new member recommendation and information.

From Dana Skinner – Calling Committee

Please let me know if you can serve on this committee. I need one more person to help call the members to remind them of meetings and other important information. If you can serve, please either text, call, or email me!

From Marsha Irvin – Membership Directory

I will send you two emails ...one with the newsletter and one with a directory of Omicron members including their contact information. Please do not share this information with others.

October – Breast Cancer Awareness Month (from NC Data – October)



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the *NationalBreastCancer.org* website has a calendar of ideas for supporting patients, activities, giveaways, and more. Click on the calendar (right) to view the calendar and read the weekday notations, including a link to downloadable graphics of statistics such as the one on the left. According to another graphic, "In 2022, an estimated 287,500 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in women in the US." Know the facts.

Your Vote is Your Voice (from NC Data – October)

Election time is here! Are you concerned about teacher pay, recruitment of high-quality teachers, or retirement benefits? From the local school board to state leaders to Congress, your vote is your voice. Early voting starts October 20; Election Day is November 8. Find out who is on your local ballot at www.ncsbe.gov. For more news and information, check out <https://bit.ly/NCDKG-ELP> or contact Malinda Pennington, chair, Educational Law and Policy Committee.



You can view your November 2022 sample ballot by going to <https://www.ncsbe.gov/voting/sample-ballot> and entering your name, birth year, and Wilson County. Hopefully, this will give you enough time to do your research.

Changes in Licensure, Compensation (from NC Data - October)

You may have heard about the proposal to change teacher licensure and compensation pathways in NC. The commission working on the proposal plans to vote on a final version by October to send to the State Board of Education. The Legislature may vote on the plan as early as January 2023. If you would like to learn more, go to the ELP News & Resources folder at <https://bit.ly/NCDKG-ELP>. Check out the most recent Ed Weekly article “How to Weigh in On Teacher Licensure and Pay Reform.”

From Dot Carter – NC DKG Educational Foundation

Need funds for a classroom or educational project or for professional development? Want to honor the classroom teachers or other educators for their heroic efforts in the past year to continue to educate students? Then the North Carolina Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation (NCDKGEF) presents opportunities for you!

Opportunities

Projects – NCDKGEF offers grants from \$500 to \$1,000 to fund projects that enhance education in school or community and/or to provide some funding for attending professional conferences. Go to the NCDKGEF website; see Grants tab for a listing and descriptions of the grants available. **Deadline** for this round of grants is **January 31, 2023**. Ladies, this gives us plenty of time to apply!

NC DKG and DKG International Scholarships

There will be two Doctoral scholarships and one Post-Baccalaureate scholarship available this year through NC DKG. Scholarship applications are due by February 1, 2023. The NCDKG scholarship forms are linked on the state website, along with an applicant checklist. NC DKG members may apply for both a NC DKG and an international scholarship within a given year. The membership requirement for International applicants is three years and for NC DKG applicants is two calendar years following induction. The international forms are available under the Apply/Submit tab of the DKG member website.

Community Soup Kitchen Volunteers

Omicron’s next scheduled Soup Kitchen date is **Monday, October 31**. 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



A “Thinking of You” cards was sent to Jean Yelverton and Marsha Irvin. If you have news of members, please contact Susie Pope, Christine Gilmore, or Marsha Irvin.

Remember the DKG Emergency Fund

Several natural catastrophes have impacted the world in recent months, including wildfires, tornadoes, and Hurricane Ian. The DKG Emergency Fund helps members who have suffered a major loss due to a natural disaster and is supported solely by donations. If you would like to make a donation, go to MyDKG, click on the Donate Now button on the left or go to the DKGIEF tab, select Emergency Fund, and click on the red Donate button. If you have been impacted by a natural disaster, fill out Form 84 and contact President Beth. Download the Emergency Fund flyer for more information and share it with others. A donation to the Emergency Fund would make a good chapter project and help other members in need.

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.

Chapter Achievement Award

The NC DKG Chapter Achievement Award has been replaced by the Rose Award. Both awards serve as a guide for successful chapters. To learn more, please visit the NC DKG website (ncdkg.org) and click on Rose Award.

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 email her at [Marsha Irvin](mailto:Marsha.Irvin).



Online: DKG News and NC DKG News

The 2022 September/October 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 and in Omicron’s membership directory. Go to <http://www.dkg.org> and set up your account!

The Fall 2022 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).

NC DKG State Convention

Please mark your calendars for the NC DKG State Convention which will be held April 28 – 30, 2023 in Greenville, NC! The Hilton Greenville, site of the 2023 NC DKG convention, was renovated in 2020 and has comfortable accommodations for the event. A large outdoor space with seating areas to socialize and rest is next to the meeting rooms, and Convention Chair Dr. Phyllis Broughton shares that all meeting rooms are on one floor and close to each other.



Convention Chair Dr. Phyllis Broughton shares that several preconvention activities are being planned for Friday, April 28. One activity planned is a tour of the East Carolina University campus with a visit to the ECU/Pitt County Community School. The community school is used for training teachers and administrators using research-based instruction. More convention updates will be forthcoming after the convention committee meets on September 24.

Please plan to attend!

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.)

Important Dates for Omicron Members

- October 24, 2022..... ASK Time for chapter presidents
- October 27, 2022..... NC DKG Founders Day
- October 31, 2022..... Website compliance renewal Form 72 due
- November 1, 2022..... Cornetet Individual and Seminar PD Awards applications due
- November 1, 2022..... NC DKG News deadline
- November 7, 2022..... Omicron meeting, 4:30 pm, YMCA (Nash Street)
- November 15, 2022..... Nominations due for 2023-25 NC DKG State Officers
- December 1, 2022 Deadline to submit proposals for state Bylaws/SR changes
- January 15, 2023 DKG Art Gallery submission open (closes February 15)



January 23, 2023 ASK Time for chapter presidents
 January 31, 2023 NC DKG Educational Foundation Grants applications due
 February 1, 2023 Scholarship applications due for NC DKG and DKG International
 February 27, 2023 Omicron meeting, 4:30 pm, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church
 April 28-30, 2023 NC DKG Convention, Greenville, NC
 July 11-16, 2023 DKG Conference, Detroit, MI

Minutes of the September 26, 2022 Meeting (Wilson Community College)

President Christine Gilmore called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, acknowledged the hostesses, and thanked members for bringing the food for our salad/dessert dinner and school supplies for our active teachers. Gilmore then presented an inspiration, "Always Room for a Friend", relating a story of a teacher filling a jar with golf balls, then pebbles, then sand, then 2 beers representing friends and family, job, everything else, and beer respectively.

Meredith Fychok led the induction of our newest member, Tricia Hester.

Robin Williams, Executive Director of Wilson Educational Partnership presented our program describing the work of WEP over its 33 years. Presently the focus is on Teacher Support and Student Support. During the pandemic, WEP produced 65 videos for teachers to use about "Learning with the Locals." The latest project has been Communicating with Confidence, first presented in 2 Junior English classes at Hunt, next year increasing to all Junior English classes at Hunt and 1 at Fike, then progressing to all Junior English classes in Wilson County Public Schools.

Gilmore recessed the meeting and the members enjoyed a dinner of various salads, desserts, and fellowship.

Gilmore called the Business portion of the meeting to order.

The minutes from our May meeting, having been distributed by email previously, were approved.

Treasurer Marsha Irvin gave the Treasurer's Report. The present balance is \$7540.41.

Corresponding Secretary Susie Pope stated she had sent cards to Marsha Irvin and Jean Yelverton.

Fychok reported that nominations for new members would take place at our November meeting.

Communications chair Dana Skinner stated her committee needs 1 more caller.

Past President Dot Carter represented Omicron at the NC DKG Executive Board Meeting September 23. She told Omicron there are 22 \$500 grants available from NC DKG Educational Foundation. The Foundation is having its annual golf tournament in Thomasville and requested Omicron sponsor a hole. This motion was seconded by Rose Bissette and passed unanimously.

Under Old Business, Gilmore and Pat Campbell led a discussion of our Westview House Reading Project. It was decided we would try again to read to any children there and definitely support the collection of books for the children's library.

Our next meeting will be Monday, November 7th at the new YMCA at 4:30 pm. Our service project will be collecting goods the after-school program needs. Pat Campbell moved that \$75 of the \$129 set aside for Westview use be used to purchase a set of books for the YMCA middle school students. Bissette seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Omicron's next service at the Soup Kitchen is October 31, 2022. Either Irvin or Martha Wrenn will send email for volunteers.

With no other announcements, Gilmore adjourned the meeting at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Yelverton

2021 – 2023 NC DKG Officers

Beth Winstead President
Hilda Parler First Vice President
Tammy Cullom Second Vice President
Patty Higgins Secretary



Omicron Officers For 2022 – 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 2022-2024:

Educational Excellence Committee Carol Putney
Membership Meredith Fychok
Scholarship Pat Campbell
Nominations Isabel Fulghum / Amy Nichols
Rules Jean Yelverton
Communications Dana Skinner
Publicity Kristin Lamond
Finance Martha Wrenn
Strategic Action Plan Dot Carter
Westview House Project Pat Campbell
Website Jerri 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

Pictures from the September 26, 2022 meeting (Wilson Community College)



Robin Williams, Guest Speaker



Tricia Hester and Meredith Fychok