Mississippi State Organization

Zeta Data

"Persistence with Purpose: Purposeful, Expanding, Nurturing, Networking, Playing"

"Shake, Rattle, & Roll"

by Debby Renfroe, MSO President

Impacting Our Well-Being With Music and the Arts

For this biennium, 2023-2025 I've asked you to focus on being Persistent with Purpose: Purposeful Expansion, Purposeful Nurturing, Purposeful Networking, and Purposeful Play.

Using those challenges, I'd like us to SHAKE up our ideas of Self-Care and Well-Being, away from being selfish toward the importance of keeping our cups and pitchers full so we can care for others. I'd like us to RATTLE around the usual Convention activities a bit so we can learn what is important in keeping our Emotional Intelligence healthy and guiding our students to do the same. Finally, I'd like us to ROLL forward as MSO Members, Expanding our chapters, Nurturing our new and returning members, Networking with other educational colleagues to grow as professionals, and Playing – allowing time for ourselves to maintain our mental and emotional strength.

One of our current DKG International focuses is Mental and Emotional Well-Being. As I read through our Seven Purposes, I realized each of these can be addressed using Music and the Arts. Tupelo, Mississippi, has redesigned itself to show-off and share the wonderful examples of Music and the Arts they've always had.

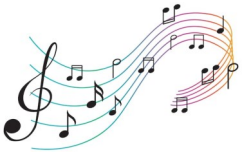
Besides being the birthplace of Elvis Presley, it is also a stop on the Mississippi Blues Trail. They feature art galleries, music venues both large and small, community theater and dance opportunities, and shopping spots for retail therapy.

For those who relax and rejuvenate through physical activities, there are walking and biking trails, golf courses, tennis and pickle ball courts, and Senior Adult exercise programs.

Arts and Humanities, Music and the Arts, Physical Programs and Exercise Activities, Churches, Parks and Libraries for quiet contemplation – all approaches to the Well-Being and Self-Care we frequently put off till we are physically, mentally, and emotionally exhausted! These issues will be put first during our 2025 Convention so we can take care of us and then, teach students and friends how to self-regulate for better emotional health.

Please "SHAKE, RATTLE, AND ROLL" into Tupelo, April 25-26, 2025, to join us for the fun!

I look forward to seeing you there,

Debby

Now Accepting Proposals for MSO Policies & Procedures… Dr. Joanna Alston, Policies & Procedures Chair

The Policies & Procedures Review Committee is now accepting proposals for changes or updates to our *P&P Manual*, which is available on the MSO website. If you have suggestions of better methods for our state organization to "do business," now is the time to propose those to us! Proposals must be submitted using our committee's form, which may be requested via email (see your chapter yearbook for the address of the Policies & Procedures Committee Chair). The to-be-determined spring deadline for proposals will be announced in a future edition of *Zeta Data*; an updated *Manual* will be published in Summer 2025.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™

Scholarships are a Benefit to DKG Members…

Dr. Stacy Baudoin, Scholarship Chair

Are you in graduate school or are you considering going to graduate school? If you are, you should look into our DKG scholarships. Both the Mississippi State Organization and the DKG International Society offer members scholarships to further their education.

The Mississippi State Organization offers two scholarships:
Clytee Evans Scholarship - $1000 (minimum of 3 years in DKG)
Amanda Lowther Scholarship - $2000 (minimum of 5 years in DKG)

To investigate the guidelines for both scholarships and to access the application, contact your chapter Scholarship Chairman (in the event your chapter does not have a scholarship chairman contact your chapter president); MSO State Scholarship Chairman, Dr. Stacy Baudoin (stacybaudoin@yahoo.com); MSO State Scholarship Committee member Janet Conely from Northern District, Nancy Finklea or Eva Guice from Central District, or Pat Muscio or Consultant Karen Fayard from Southern District; or log onto our state website http://www.zetastatedkg.org/scholarships.html

**MSO Scholarships cannot be used for National Board Certification!

DKG International offers 30 scholarships each year to members pursuing advanced degrees. Scholarships are $6,000 to members for graduate level and $10,000 for work at the doctorate level. View the Society Website: http://www.dkg.org

For those planning to apply, the application packets and basic requirements are available online and are due **February 1, 2025**, for both Mississippi State Organization and DKG International Scholarships. Begin now collecting your information focusing on chapter, state, and international service in order to build a strong application.

Mary Stuart Harmon Scholarship… by Neelie Owen, MSH Chair

Amount: $1000 for 2024

This is a scholarship for a Specialist or Doctorate degree. The MSHS is awarded to a deserving candidate who has shown an ability to serve through her chapter, her district, her state, and perhaps even, internationally. Service at the state level is emphasized. The candidate's experiences and achievements in education are also taken into consideration.

The scholarship application is found on our MSO website: Form 15. The specific details and requirements for the Mary Stuart Harmon Scholarship can be found on the application. If you wish to apply, please be aware of time constraints. The application must be postmarked by February 1st of each year.

The MSHS funds are maintained by the MSHS Board of Trustees and the MSO organization. Any and all donations to the fund will be appreciated. If you wish to donate to the fund or are a hopeful candidate with questions, please contact:

Neelie Owen
neelieowen@gmail.com

Leadership Development Update… by Janice Garrett, Chair

A wonderful slate of new chapter officers for the 2022-2024 biennium came together June 7 and 8 at Copiah Academy for the biennial Chapter Leaders Retreat. The excitement and eagerness of the new officers filled the air as MSO leaders shared their knowledge and expertise. The Leadership Development Committee is so grateful to all those who helped make Chapter Leaders Retreat a huge success. We are…still Moving Forward!

The Leadership Development Committee is also already preparing for the Chapter Presidents Update to be held on Friday, April 25 during our MSO Convention. All Chapter Presidents will be surveyed in early 2025 to suggest topics that are relevant in helping build strong chapters. The DKG International Guest will be the featured speaker for the President's Update. Come prepared with your questions for DKG International and MSO!

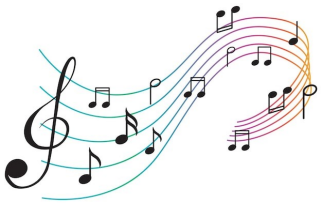
Eagle Ridge Conference Center in Raymond will again be the venue for the 2025 Leadership Management Seminar. The Leadership Development Committee is so excited as we bring our biennial theme, Persistence with Purpose: Purposeful expanding, nurturing, networking, playing, to life with 4 days packed with learning, laughter, and leadership. The seminar will be held June 17 through June 20, 2025. The Leadership Management Seminar applications and the $100 fee must be postmarked by March 1, 2023. Ask your chapter president or check the MSO website for Form 14. Remember only 20 LMS candidates can be accepted. Get those applications and fees in the mail and join us as we continue to Move MSO Forward!

Growing Through Communication and Marketing by Dr. Betsy Sullivan, Chair

Keeping chapter members informed is an important role of chapter health. It can often be a stressful task for the newsletter editor. There are changes from the Communication & Marketing Committee. These changes have to do with how chapters submit newsletters. In the past, the chapter's newsletter editor mailed or emailed their newsletter to numerous officers of the MSO. Now we ask that all newsletters be submitted to a Google folder that is dedicated to the chapter. This should ease the burden on the chapter newsletter editor. Editors, if you have any difficulty uploading your newsletter, please contact Betsy Sullivan at docbsullivan@gmail.com and she will assist you.

Another important change with chapter communication is using social media to keep members informed. Chapters may now submit screenshots of texts, tweets, Facebook posts, etc., containing detailed information to their Google folder. These screenshots also count as chapter communication. Keep in mind that a simple one-line reminder of an upcoming meeting is not detailed. These screenshots count towards Honor Chapter status for the chapter.

That's all for communication. Now, we turn to marketing. In the beginning, our society was based on schoolteachers. Now, we embrace educators outside the formal school walls. When looking at prospective chapter members, we must take not of informal educators. These may be healthcare-based, museum-based, or public library-based. She may be in an education division of a state agency or a local law enforcement position. Also, do not hesitate to look in areas not represented by a chapter. We have several counties where a chapter folded that still has educators that meet our criteria for membership. We should embrace them and invite them into our society. So, as we progress through this year, observe those who visit your classroom as guest speakers, present lessons on field trips, talk to others (maybe your chapter) on how to be monitor your health, safety…. any topic. That lady is a prospective member!



A Note from the Music Chair... By Cynthia Steen, Chair

Are you a songbird? If you love to sing, please consider joining the MSO Choir at the State Convention in April. We have many talented ladies across the state who have beautiful voices. This is a chance for you to shine! If you would like to join, please email me at **crcolburn55@gmail.com**, or text/call me at **(662) 841-1083**. I look forward to working with you!

Pre– Convention Seminar... Cheryl Saffle, Chair

We Want to Hear from YOU... Carol Rigby, Bylaws & Standing Rules

The Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee wants to hear from you!

Thanks to the 2021-2023 Bylaws and Standing Rules committee for their outstanding job of streamlining, correcting and arranging an easy-to-follow format. I commend their efforts.

Now, the 2023-2025 committee is asking our MSO members, "YOU" for your thoughts and input.

You can find a copy of our MSO Bylaws and Standing Rules by going to our MSO website: http://www.zetastatedkg.org/ Go to the bottom of the home page and click on "MSO BYLAWS". Please review these and send your concerns or input on the proper form. Linda Lightsey has graciously volunteered to send this information to all chapter presidents and MSO committee chairmen.

Please send your proposals to Carol S. Rigby at the email found in your chapter yearbook. All proposals should be received by Thursday, October 31, 2024, as the committee will need time to prepare the document for publication deadline as required for member viewing before the April convention.

The final revision will be posted to the MSO. Website as soon as completed. Chapter presidents will be notified when posted. Members will vote on the proposed document at the 2024 MSO Convention in April. Thank you in advance for your participation in making our MSO documents complete.

SEE...A DKG Priority ...by Jatassia White, SEE Representative

Supporting Early Educators: A DKG Priority

As experienced educators, Delta Kappa Gamma members understand the unique challenges and opportunities faced by early-career teachers. By providing mentorship, support, and resources, we can help these educators navigate the complexities of their profession and build a strong foundation for their future.

The Importance of Mentorship

Early-career educators often experience a mix of excitement, enthusiasm, and anxiety as they embark on their professional journey. Providing mentorship can help them:

- **Build confidence:** By offering guidance and encouragement, we can help early educators feel more confident in their abilities.
- **Develop skills:** Mentors can provide valuable insights into effective teaching strategies, classroom management techniques, and curriculum development.

Navigate challenges: Early-career educators may face a range of challenges, such as workload, classroom management issues, and self-doubt. Mentors can offer support and advice to help them overcome these obstacles.

How to Support Early Educators

- **Provide resources:** Share relevant articles, books, and online resources that can help early-career educators stay informed and improve their practice.
- **Offer guidance:** Be available to answer questions, provide feedback, and offer advice on various aspects of teaching.

Create a supportive community: Foster a sense of belonging and community among early-career educators by organizing networking events, workshops, and support groups.

Getting Involved

- **Identify early-career educators:** Look for opportunities to connect with new teachers in your community, such as through your local school district or other professional organizations that you may be part of.
- **Offer mentorship:** Volunteer to mentor an early-career educator and provide them with the support and guidance they need to succeed.

Join a DKG chapter: Become a member of a Delta Kappa Gamma chapter to connect with other educators and participate in initiatives to support early-career teachers.

By providing mentorship, support, and resources, Delta Kappa Gamma members can play a vital role in helping early-career educators thrive. By investing in these educators, we are not only supporting their professional growth but also contributing to the future of education.

Remember: Document your support activities on Form 22-SEE Report (DUE to State Representative February 1st) to help your chapter earn points toward being an Honor Chapter.

Please feel free to contact me Jastassia White, MSO SEE Rep. may11may31@gmail.com or text 601-462-6485

International Project… Debby Renfroe

GIRLS INITIATIVE TO REVITALIZE LEARNING AND SUCCESS (GIRLS)

Given the setbacks caused by COVID-19, now is the moment to make critical investments and get education back on track for girls. Your generous investment would support UNICEF's **"Girls Initiative to Revitalize Learning and Success" (GIRLS) Fund** to make progress on girls' education in Africa. The GIRLS Fund will achieve results by directing critical funds to African countries where girls' education has been identified as a challenge. Funding will also strengthen global girls' education expertise and ensure coordination and support across country offices. This flexible funding mechanism will enable UNICEF to commit funds in areas of girls' education where they will have the greatest impact.

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Because investing in girls' secondary education is one of the most transformative development strategies, UNICEF will prioritize efforts that enable all girls to complete secondary education and develop the knowledge and skills they need for life and work. The initiative will also engage boys and men in efforts to address harmful social norms that impede prosperity for girls.

The initiative aims to:

1) get a better understanding of the current barriers and bottlenecks facing girls in Africa;
2) address harmful social norms that impede prosperity of girls;
3) deploy technology to accelerate results in girls' education;
4) mount global advocacy and leadership through a Global Platform; and
5) develop a Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) to tap into expertise on gender equality and women's empowerment' and change the trajectory of learning and earning outcomes for girls and young women.

Responding effectively to girls' education barriers requires UNICEF to continually pioneer new solutions that work in complex situations. This innovative funding mechanism will help us leverage additional capital to advance gender-equitable education systems in Africa that empower girls. Flexible funding allows UNICEF to meet the changing needs of children throughout the pandemic and into recovery. UNICEF can address gaps and meet needs in underserved areas. The funding also allows UNICEF to work hand in hand with local governments and communities to deliver on their priorities in girls' education.

By partnering with UNICEF, you have an opportunity to help bridge the gender divide in education and support quality learning for girls across Africa. Together, we can guarantee the next generation a better life than the last.

Achievement Award Submissions Needed

Applications for the Achievement Award must be turned in by February 1, 2025 to Beverly Hesterman at 408 5th St. Beaumont, MS 39423. Submit Form 1.

*DKG Ignite...*Beth McKay

There's No Going Back: My Experience as a DKG Ignite Class of 2024 Participant

There are moments in our lives that change us forever. While it feels cliché to begin this way, there really is no way for me to articulate the impact that DKG Ignite has had on me. Truly, I am forever changed for the better, and there really are no words that can fully express the amount of gratitude that I feel for being given this opportunity.

When I applied to participate, I really did not expect to get selected, but something in me told me to go for it—to not put off for tomorrow what could be done today. This may have been partly because my biennium as Pi Chapter President was coming to a close. I was thinking, "What am I going to do now?" I also had the desire to continue my growth as a leader, and I felt this opportunity pulling me, so I jumped. And that leap took me farther than I could have ever imagined.

There I was. Austin, Texas. The home of Delta Kappa Gamma. Surrounded by a group of 19 strong, brilliant, female leaders who had been selected for the same purpose as I. We were engaged in intense classes pretty much around the clock for an entire week. We expended a lot of energy—both physical and mental, but at the end of the week, what we accomplished was invaluable.

So, I've said a lot, but I've not shown any. Let me try to give you a little glimpse of what I mean.

I am an honest person, and that honesty allows me to readily admit my shortcomings. I know that I have faults, and this knowledge helps me work to improve myself. I can be bossy, and I am not the best listener; it takes a lot of effort for me to delegate and to stop my thoughts and focus on what others have to say. However, these two skills are crucial for a good leader, so I have been constantly looking to improve myself in these areas for quite some time now. While I had multiple opportunities to grow in this area, there was one that will stay with me forever.

In one session, we were assigned groups, and each group had to use twenty sheets of paper, tape, and scissors to erect a structure as tall as we could in a certain amount of time. The winning group would be the one with the tallest structure. I immediately had a vision come to my mind and started by explaining my plan to my group. Everyone liked it and agreed to it. I delegated jobs so that everyone had an active role. As the structure grew taller and taller, it began to become less sturdy. At one point, I had added a portion that made the structure very unstable, and Siiri who was right beside me began saying, "No, no. Take it off. It will fall." While I too had that fear, I knew that by removing that portion, we would probably not win the competition. At the same time, if the structure fell, we would be disqualified. I listened to Siri and my group agreed. We took off the addition at the very top, and we finished in second place. However, something strange happened to me. I did not feel sad or disappointed. I felt like our group had won. We were all smiling and happy despite not having the highest structure. We trusted each other more and had used the experience to bond with each other. At the end of the day, this activity was not really about which group had the highest structure; it was about working together. Finishing the task and still all being friends. Being respectful and listening to each other. Really, we were the winners.

And I am the winner because I took this risk. I chose to get out of my comfort zone and do something that I had never done before. I had never been to Texas; I had never travelled alone. Even though I was afraid, I forced myself to do it, and I was blessed with one of the best experiences of my life, quite possibly the most impactful. My confidence is stronger. My attitude is better. My understanding of how I can work on myself to become the leader that I was born to be is clearer. I made friendships with women from not only around our country but also around the world that will last my entire life. I owe this organization more than I will ever be able to return, but I will dedicate my life to never stop trying.

MSO STAR

Christine Wall

Mississippi State Organization's STAR is a wife, mother, and grandmother, and an active member of her church. She has been in Delta Kappa Gamma since 1999. Within her chapter, she has served on nine different committees but has served repeatedly on several for a total of nineteen biennia of service. She has been chapter president, 2nd vice-president, recording secretary, and corresponding secretary.

At state level she has served on EEC as Professional Affairs and twice as Personal Growth and Services Representative; four times on Membership Committee, once as chairman; twice as Central District Assistant Director; and, most recently, as Chairman of the State History Committee. This Pi Chapter Member worked diligently with her committee members to write and publish History of Zeta State, 2009 - 2019.

It is an honor to announce Christine Walls as MSO's 2024 Star of the Southeast!
CONGRATULATIONS, CHRIS!

Debby Renfroe
Mississippi State Organization President, 2023-2025

2025 Mississippi State Organization Convention

Cadence Bank Conference Center

April 25,26

Room Block at Hilton Garden Inn (20 steps, door to door

Watch for Registration Form in *Winter Zeta Data*

Save Your $$$ for Pre-Convention Seminar AND Convention

Woman of Distinction... by Sybil Wilner, EEC Personal Growth & Services

As the biennium begins, it is time for Chapter Presidents and Personal Growth and Service Chairs to begin thinking about and taking steps to name your chapter Woman of Distinction. These ladies will be recognized at the Birthday Luncheon during the Mississippi State Organization Convention, which is held during odd-numbered years. This award provides an opportunity for a chapter to honor a member that has shown outstanding contributions to education, her chapter, and/or her community. Individual chapters decide the criteria and method of selection for the chapter Woman of Distinction award. You will complete **Form 24** and send it with a **color photo** of your honoree. The deadline for submission is **December 1, 2024**. If you

Chapter Service Projects... by Sybil Wilner, EEC Personal Growth & Services

Greetings, it is with great pleasure that I will be serving as your Personal Growth and Services Representative for our state. Each year Mississippi State Organization chapters report on their chapter's service projects. As you develop your service projects, please consider the needs in your community. Once your reports are shared with me, I would like to share some of them through our Zeta Data newsletter or MSO website. Reading about other chapters' projects gets us thinking about what we can do in our own community to help others. So, please don't forget to send me a short description and photo showcasing your chapter's project.

Each chapter is required to complete **Form 6-Chapter Service Project by February 1, 2024**. I look forward to receiving your reports and how your project is making a difference in your community. Please let me know if I can help you in any way. My contact information is as follows: **Sybil Wilner, 228-218-3272, swilner.DKG@gmail.com**

Shout out!!

Congratulations to Dr. Stacy Reeves, Alpha Gamma Chapter MSO, DKG!!

Dr. Reeves has an article included in the 2024, Volume 91-1 issue of *The Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin* entitled "15 Years After "Making it Happen: Using Differentiated Instruction, Retrofit Framework, and Universal Design for Learning": A Brief Update of These Concepts."

Leadership Management Seminar

Eagle Ridge Conference Center
1500 Raymond Lake Road
Raymond, MS 39154

June 17, 18, 19, & 20, 2025

If You Are:

- **An Active Delta Kappa Gamma Member in Good Standing with your Chapter**
- **Ready to Learn More about Yourself and Your Role in Leadership**
- **Enthusiastic, Energetic and Self-Motivated**
- **Looking for a Good Networking Team of Like-Minded Women across the State of Mississippi**
-

The Mississippi Leadership Management Seminar (LMS) is just what you are looking for!

If You Want to Attend:

1. **Complete & Mail the Leadership Management Seminar Application Form 14 by March 1, 2025**
2. **Send the $100 Registration Fee payable to MSO (fee will be refunded if you are not accepted)**
3. **Attend the 2025 MSO Convention Luncheon to see if you are one of the twenty (20) LMS participants**

2023-2025 Mississippi State Officers

President……Debby Renfroe
1st Vice President……Stephanie Jones
2nd Vice President…… Karen Rhodes
Recording Secretary……Cindy Alsworth Jones
Treasurer……Lynn Holliday
Executive Secretary……Linda Lightsey
Parliamentarian……Jean Ricks
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Northern District Director……Misty Whitehead
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Central District Director…… ..... Polly Ann White
Central District Assistant Director…… Lindsay Griffith
Southern District Director…… Lady Ann Bruce
Southern District Assistant Director…… Christy Sheffield
Mississippi State Web Master……Toni Cook
ZETA DATA Editor……Tracey Crawford

Calling all Yearbooks!... By Stephanie Jones, MSO 1st Vice President

Has your chapter yearbook been distributed yet? If not, and your chapter needs help with it, I'm your gal! In an effort to address common problems that chapters had last year, I have created a series of videos that are recordings of my computer screen as I show, step by-step, how to address many of the items on Form 25, and they have been distributed to chapter 1st VPs and yearbook editors. In order to receive the chapter yearbook award, the yearbook must be emailed or postmarked by December 1 to me, our state president, our state executive secretary, our state recording secretary, and YOUR district director. Don't forget to attach or enclose Form 25 (2024 version) with the copy you send me. Remember, I'm only an email, a text message, or a phone call away, so please reach out if you have questions or need help!

Tracey Crawford
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