



NSO 2026 State Convention

Thursday, June 25, 2026



Agenda – ZOOM – 10:00-2:00

General Session – 10:00-11:30

1. Welcome – Pat Goeppinger (Gamma) Called to order at 10:02 AM
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Penny Thompson (Gamma)
3. Introduce Guest Speaker – Connie Rensink, Texas
4. Inspiration –
“Good teaching is more a giving of right questions than a giving of right answers.” – Josef Albers
“Good teachers are the ones who can challenge young minds without losing their own.” –Unknown.
“Children must be taught how to think, not what to think.” – Margaret Mead
5. Attendance: Karen Laskowski (Gamma) 25 Members attended
Alpha 2 Beta 0 Delta 3 Gamma 6 Kappa 1 Lambda 2
Nu 1 Omicron 2 Theta 5 Xi 3
6. Parliamentary Procedures: Judy Silker (Nu) – When making a motion, raise your hand, state your name and chapter. State the motion then restate so the Secretary can write it down.
7. Recognize new members to DKG – Cheryl Anderson (Delta)
New
Mary Jo Marx – Alpha Janni Gearty – Delta
Donna Harker – Delta Rhonda Clark – Nu
8. International Business: Pat Goeppinger (Gamma)
 - a. The DKG Visionary Network
 - b. Member Spotlight
 - c. Impact (Project) Spotlight
 - d. 2028 International Convention – Philadelphia, PA – July 4-8, 2028
9. State Business:
 - a. Approval of minutes for NSO Convention General Session – April 26, 2025
Minutes were approved as posted on the website.

Joyce King (Gamma) – Susan Capistrant (Theta) – Donna Harper (Gamma)

- b. Need three members to approve NSO Convention General Session – June 25, 2026
Susan Capistrant (Theta), Linda Scribner (Lambda), Maxine Emm (Delta)

c. Reports:

1. Finance – Maxine Emm (Delta) –

Maxine presented and explained the Treasurer's Report.

Checking account balance - \$9,872.58

Permanent fund balance - \$1,995.30

Annie Webb Blanton State Scholarship balance - \$6,874.74

Martha Schulz Doctoral Scholarship business market account balance –
\$15,127.89

Budget is posted online.

Susan Neal (Kappa) asked when the ZOOM subscription will be renewed. Pat Goeppinger (Gamma) stated August. Susan mentioned receiving word that this year is the ZOOM platform's anniversary and to watch for possible discounts.

2. Membership and Necrology – Cheryl Anderson (Delta)

152 members; 141 active; 11 reserve

3 deceased members – Janet Pederson (Xi), Linda Fleming (Gamma), and Sue Wagner (Alpha)

3. EEC – Awards – Committees

Judy Merz (Gamma) shared the International Vision.

At the state level there are 8 focus areas.

Judy shared survey results and recommended the focus leaders function as a comprehensive committee with a few meetings a year. She would like to add a focus leader for UNICEF which is the same as Every Child Fund. Being labeled as Every Child Fund, donations are not restricted to a specific project. Please let Judy Merz know if you would like to be a focus leader for the Every Child Fund (UNICEF) at the state level.

a. State Apple Award – Focus Leader Cheryl Anderson (Delta)

Alpha Chapter awarded 2, Gamma Chapter awarded 2, Delta Chapter awarded 11, Nu Chapter awarded 1, Xi Chapter awarded 2, Omicron Chapter awarded 4

b. Chapter Rose of Recognition – Focus Leader Judy Merz (Gamma)

c. Arts and Humanities – Focus Leader Judy Silker (Nu)

Judy would like to hold an art show during the 2027 convention. More information to follow.

d. World Fellowship – Focus Leader Susan Capistrant (Theta) No report from Susan, but Lambda and Gamma reported contributions of \$50 each.

e. US Forum Committee– Chair Brenda Downs (Delta) Pat reported that Brenda wants to form a committee. This committee would go to Carson City. She already has a few people interested in helping. This committee would have a budget. Susan Neal will forward information to Brenda about the advocates the Nevada School Board Association has hired to keep them informed about education legislation.

f. Any members interested in joining a committee, please contact Judy Merz (Gamma), jrmerz@aol.com

4. Nevadagram – Editor Donna Harper (Gamma) – Send any items your chapter would like in the Nevadagram to either Donna or Pat.

5. Historian – Candy Rooney (Delta) – Chapters that sent anything in for the past year has been included in the yearbook. Candy will send the yearbook to Susan Neal so it can be posted on the website. The yearbook will be housed digitally going forward.

6. Webmaster – Susan Neal (Kappa) – Susan shared the website virtually. She will delete information such as phone numbers, addresses, email addresses because this information is easily accessible by scammers. Judy Merz (Gamma) suggested making the directory password protected.

7. Annie Webb Blanton State Scholarship – Leta Rabenstine (Xi)
Leta reported that there were no applicants this year. Her question – How do we drum up more business? Pat Goeppinger asked if the scholarship can be used for chapter programs. Pat and Leta will research the guidelines to determine how the funds may be used. Susan Neal (Kappa) mentioned that there are educational webinars that charge a fee to attend and that we should include more examples of the types of events that would be permitted on the application to spark interest.

This year the scholarship is set to go to a member in the North. If there are no applicants by December 1, the scholarship opens to members in the South. More than one applicant may be awarded funds. Judy Merz stated that things have changed and we (NSO) are too small to divide North and South.

Marlene Killion (Omicron) stated that things have changed and that we need to work on rewording the scholarship. State By Laws and Standing Rules need to be looked at.

8. Martha Schulz Doctorial Scholarship – Cheryl Anderson (Delta)

Cheryl reported that the funds available total \$33,870.51.

Susan Capistrant (Theta) was the most recent recipient and mentioned that other states award larger amounts initially, then smaller amounts as requested.

9. Emergency Fund – Marlene Killian (Omicron) Total of \$469 contributed.

Gamma \$150, Theta \$50, Omicron \$100, Delta \$69, Lambda \$50, Xi \$50.

10. Fundraising - Cheryl Anderson (Delta) – Please send Cheryl ideas.

11. Leadership – Pat Goeppinger (Gamma)

Scholarship Proposal – 11:30-12:00 – Maxine Emm (Delta)

Maxine reported that there are two pages of guidelines for this scholarship in our Standing Rules. Two years ago, the membership voted to open a time account with a portion of the funds. In 1985, the scholarship fund began with \$12,000. That amount has grown to \$31,000.

There was much discussion between Maxine Emm, Pat Goeppinger, Kay Kurvers, Judy Merz, Judy Silker, Cheryl Anderson, Candy Rooney, Cindy Frazer, Christi Pagni, Susan Capistrant, and Susan Neal regarding how best to honor the original intent of the scholarship and how to reword the parameters of the scholarship.

Maxine suggested not touching the \$15,000 CD which contains the original intent of the scholarship.

Since Maxine has seemingly exhausted all attempts at locating any members of the Schulz family, Judy Merz stated that we seem to have done our due diligence. Judy also mentioned a newspaper posting of our intention if we are concerned about legality.

It was decided a revision of the State By-Laws and Standing Rules needs to be completed and presented for vote during the 2027 convention.

The members of the revision committee are Cheryl Anderson, Maxine Emm, Pat Goeppinger, Cindy Frazer, Judy Silker, Leta Rabenstine, Judy Merz, and Karen Laskowski.

Break – 12:00-12:15

Guest Speaker – 12:15-1:05 - Connie Rensink – Texas

Connie's first presentation was "How Does Your DKG Garden Grow?"

Her second presentation was "Revision of Governing Documents."

The key revisions being proposed were membership classification changes.

There may be two (2) additional designations. At this point, members can be classified as one of the following: active, reserve, collegiate, state, or honorary. The two proposed designations are global which is someone who wants to be a member but there isn't enough interest in their area to form an organization and affiliate which is someone who is not qualified, but is a supporter of DKG. This could be the husband of a member. A member designated as an affiliate would have no voting rights.

Connie also mentioned that 2029 will be the 100th anniversary of DKG. There is a goal for each state to gain 100 members over the next three years.

Remembrance – 1:05-1:30 – Cheryl Anderson (Delta) and Karen Laskowski (Gamma)

Janet Pederson (Xi) – speaker Leta Rabenstine

Linda Fleming (Gamma) – speaker Karen Laskowski

Sue Wagner (Alpha) – speaker Kay Kurvers

Awards – 1:30-1:55 - Judy Merz (Gamma)

Rose of Recognition

Alpha Chapter – Marfel Kusko

Exemplary Service Award

Judy Merz (Epsilon/Gamma)

Gamma Chapter – Judy Davis
Delta Chapter – Paige Coziahr
Theta Chapter – Janice Clarke
Kappa Chapter – Julie Gould
Lambda Chapter – Lois Bianchi

2027 NSO Convention – 1:55-2:00 – Maxine Emm (Delta)

Maxine reported that she is looking into the same hotel where the convention was held at in 2025. She is having some struggles with phone communication and will likely need to follow up in person. The three dates she is seeking are April 17, April 24, or May 1.

The members of the planning committee for the convention are Maxine Emm, Pat Goeppinger, Cindy Frazer, Linda Scribner, Susan Capistrant, Judy Silker, and Karen Laskowski.

**2:00 – Thank you for attending and close of 2026 NSO ZOOM Convention –
Pat Goeppinger (Gamma)**

International Conventions:

Aurora, CO – June 30 – July 4, 2026

Location pending – 2027

Philadelphia, PA – July 4 – 6, 2028

Austin, TX – July 25-28, 2029

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Karen Laskowski, NSO Secretary