



# Nu's Notes



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International - Illinois State Organization  
Nu Chapter #13 -- Peoria, IL

Volume 47, Number 2

December 2023



professional and personal growth of women educators and

excellence in education.

Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide (Vision)

### 2022-2024 Officers

President..... Cathy Curtis  
 First Vice President..... Carol Sleeth  
 Second Vice President..... Connie Voss  
 Recording Secretary ..... Mary Taylor  
 Corresponding Secretary ..... Kathy Johnson  
 Treasurer ..... Mary Jane Sterling  
 Parliamentarian..... Camille Ratcliff  
 Webmaster..... Mary Jane Sterling  
 Newsletter Editor..... Dorothy Dean

- DKG Society International: [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)
- Illinois website: [www.deltakappagamma.org/IL](http://www.deltakappagamma.org/IL)
- Nu Chapter's website: [www.nuchapterdkg.weebly.com](http://www.nuchapterdkg.weebly.com)
- Facebook page: [dkg-illinois key women educators](https://www.facebook.com/dkg-illinois-key-women-educators)
- CAR Facebook page: [dkg-ilsowiacar](https://www.facebook.com/dkg-ilsowiacar)
- YouTube: Delta Kappa Gamma, Illinois, key women educators
- Zoom sessions: [nuchapterdkg@weebly.com](mailto:nuchapterdkg@weebly.com)

## President's message

Holiday season is here again. As a chapter we give **thanks** for our outstanding programs this fall – learning about

progress at Peoria Public Schools in October and a helpful, thoughtful discussion of what's new in the fight against Alzheimer's disease in November. We celebrate the **joy** of time together releasing our creativity in December and sharing our favorite books in February. We **toast** the New Year with a visit to the Regional Learning Center in January.

So much to celebrate this holiday season with your family and with your Nu sisters. Happy Holidays to you all! – Cathy



## Peoria Reads X 2

Nu chapter is doubling our participation in Peoria Reads this spring. We'll read *Nature's Best Hope, A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard* by Douglas Tallamy prior to our March 6 meeting. You can read the adult version or a version for "young readers". Then we'll read *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt for the May 4 meeting. We'll discuss the books at separate gatherings – maybe over lunch – on days close to the meeting days. These books are available at Peoria libraries

If you know of someone who needs our attention, please let one of the officers know.

## Newscaster

Please let Cathy Curtis know if you'd like to receive your Newscaster electronically rather than in paper form.

## Membership Committee

### Invite your someone special to a meeting

Spring is the season for fresh starts, renewal, awakening, and possibilities galore. Take a minute and look around. Who do you know that would like to be connected? Who do you know who would like to be engaged with a group of dynamic educators? Who is looking for a fresh start, a new group, a chance to enhance young educator's lives? Who do you know who would like to make a difference in the lives of Peoria's youth? Please invite these special gals to a meeting. We are looking to grow our chapter and you can make that possible.

Recommendations for membership may be submitted at any time to the Membership Committee or an officer.

## Serving Our Sisters Through Connections and Interactions

Yes, the State Communications and Marketing Committee is focusing on connecting with all State members. They will be providing at least 4 Zooms per month, featuring:

- Virtual visits to countries and museums
- Chats, podcasts, videos, blogs
- Book discussions, author interviews
- Teachers sharing ideas or projects
- Artsy stuff (Zentangle)

Watch for the Zoom schedule and announcements. You are forwarded the "What's Happening?" every week, and you can also find the listing on Facebook and YouTube.

## I Need Your Help!

I'm working on creating a game session to be held before the April ILSO Convention. The convention is going to be virtual, so that's how this game will be presented.

The game I'm creating is a bunch of WORDIES.



Do you know what phrase the above graphic represents? Can you type that answer into an "answer box"?

Okay – what I need are some volunteers who can meet with me at a Zoom session. I'm only inviting Nu Chapter members right now. We want to keep this fun and personal. If you are willing, you will come to the Zoom meeting and take part in the contest. The winner is the person who has the highest "first to answer" score.

Again, this is a trial run. I need to have something that works well before presenting it to the convention committee. And, if you like games, this just might be fun!

Please let me know if you are interested.

Mary Jane Sterling [REDACTED]

The answer: six feet underground



## Have You Been Thinking?

Delta Kappa Gamma has the opportunity each year to help young ladies in their teacher education. Please share names of those you think may qualify.

## Past Meeting Minutes

# NU Chapter (#13) General Membership Meeting October 5, 2023

Approved at the November 6, 2023  
General Business Meeting

**Program** Dr. Susan Grzanich, Innovation and Grants Officer & Director of Woodruff Career and Technical Center presented an overview of Peoria Public Schools Remarkable Futures Programs – Diploma/Degree Program with ICC, International Baccalaureate, School Your Way, Career Development Experiences, Educator Pathway, Work-Earn-Learn, and Woodruff Career and Technical Center programs.

**Call to Order** President Cathy Curtis called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. at PPS Administration Building followed by the reading of the Collect. A quorum was present with ten members in attendance.

**Minutes** Minutes of the September 7, 2023 meeting were approved as distributed.

**Treasurer's Report** (Mary Jane Sterling) The following report was presented and will be filed for financial review: Checking Account Balance September 7, 2023 \$639.11; Income \$0.00; Disbursements \$0.00; Checking Account Balance October 5, 2023 \$639.11; Savings Account Balance September 7, 2023 \$40.62; Savings Account Balance October 5, 2023 \$40.62; Money Market Account Balance September 7, 2023 \$2,711.39; Money Market Account Balance October 5, 2023 \$2,711.39; Certificate of Deposit October 5, 2023 \$5,000.00; Total Balance October 5, 2023 \$8,391.12.

Gail Thigpen was dropped October 1, 2023 for nonpayment of dues.

**Educational Excellence** (Connie Voss) David Meyers will present *Alzheimer's Disease Today* at the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting at Proctor Place. Members were asked to view the "Status of

DKG" video on the International website in preparation for a discussion at the November meeting regarding DKG and Nu Chapter. Julie Frank led the singing of *My Favorite Things*.

### Communications and Marketing

(Yearbook/Chris Berto) Yearbooks were distributed, and future updates will be printed on meeting agenda and in *Nu's Notes*. (Website/Mary Jane Sterling) Mary Jane Sterling will contact/assist members who need to complete Media Permission Form. (*Nu's Notes* Dorothy Dean) *Nu's Notes* were distributed. December issue deadline is November 26<sup>th</sup>.

### Professional Advancement and Outreach

Nu members distributed Library Card Sign Up materials to schools.

**Nominations** Barb Blanco presented and moved to accept the 2024-2026 Nominations Committee slate (Mary Taylor, Jalee Scott, Mary Jane Sterling, Julie Frank, and Cathy Curtis, Chair); motion passed. The slate for 2024-2026 Nu Chapter officers includes Carol Sleeth/Cam Ratcliff, co-First Vice-Presidents and Roberta Koscielski, Second Vice-President with slated positions of president, recording secretary, and corresponding secretary to be filled.

### Unfinished Business None

**New Business** Donations for Art Mart auction are being sought.

**Announcements** Universalist Unitarian Church book sale is October 14 and 15.

**Adjournment** The meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Christine Berto, Secretary pro tem  
Cathy Curtis, President



## Condolences

- Nan Hasenstein-Kleffman and family due to the death of her husband, Dean, on November 11

# NU Chapter (#13) General Membership Meeting November 6, 2023

## To Be Approved at the December 6, 2023 General Business Meeting

**Program** Daryl Carlson, Manager of Education & Community Volunteers, presented *Alzheimer's Disease Today*.

**Call to Order** President Cathy Curtis called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. at Proctor Place followed by the reading of the Collect. A quorum was present with 11 members in attendance.

**Minutes** Minutes of the October 5, 2023 meeting were approved as printed.

**Treasurer's Report** (Mary Jane Sterling) The following report was presented and will be filed for financial review: Checking Account Balance October 5, 2023 \$639.11; Income \$0.00; Disbursements \$209.13 (\$19.20 *Nu's Notes* printing; \$189.93 Yearbook printing/ mailing); Checking Account Balance October 30, 2023 \$429.98; CEFCU Savings Balance October 5, 2023 \$40.63; Dividends \$0.01; Savings Balance October 30, 2023 \$40.64; CEFCU Money Market Account Balance October 5, 2023 \$2,717.25; Dividends \$3.39; \$7.31 Money Market Account Balance October 30, 2023 \$2,720.64; Certificate of Deposit \$5,000.00; Total Balance October 30, 2023 \$8,191.26.

**Educational Excellence** (Connie Voss) The December 6<sup>th</sup> program will include a social time, craft activity, and a cookie sale (proceeds to Peoria Regional Learning Center). Members joined in singing *I'll Be Loving You Always*.

**Communications and Marketing** Mary Jane Sterling will contact/assist members who need to complete Media Permission Form. Cam Ratcliff reported on recent Women's Civic Federation presentations by Stefanie Tarr, Peoria City Clerk and Carol Merna, Center for Prevention of Abuse CEO.

**Professional Advancement and Outreach** (Roberta Koscielski) Peoria Public Library issued 825 new library cards in September, and final statistics for Library Card Sign Up are being compiled. The Nu Chapter Grant application form is being updated and will be distributed. The application deadline for the \$165 grant is the end of February.

**Nominations** Barb Blanco presented the current proposed slate for 2024-2026 Nu Chapter officers: Carol Sleeth/Cam Ratcliff, co-First Vice-Presidents; Roberta Koscielski, Second Vice-President; Mary Taylor, Recording Secretary; and Julie Frank, Corresponding Secretary. The position of President is yet to be filled. Chris Berto moved to suspend Article VII A. 1 "present the recommended slate of officers at the October meeting, election occurs at November meeting of odd-numbered years" to allow the election of 2024-2026 officers to occur at a time other than the November meeting; motion passed. Members viewed the Avenue M Project videos from International, and members shared in the conversation about the current and possible future status of DKG and Nu Chapter.

**Unfinished Business** None

**New Business** None

**Announcements** Members were reminded of the Literacy Zoom November 6<sup>th</sup>, Lunch with Linda November 11<sup>th</sup>, *Nu's Notes* deadline November 26<sup>th</sup>, and yearbook updates found on the agenda

**Adjournment** The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Christine Berto, Secretary pro tem  
Cathy Curtis, President

## Need a Ride???



If you would like to attend a meeting and would like a ride but don't know who to call, please contact any of the officers (telephone or email), and/or reply in your email response.

## 2023-2024 Yearbook Updates

page 13: Organization and Size, last sentence  
26 members

page 30: Coordinating Council Location -  
Sunset Eatery, 1620 Summit Dr., Pekin

pages 46 and 51: Gail Thigpen - currently not a  
member of Nu Chapter

Please contact Chris Berto if there are  
corrections and updates. These will be shared  
at meetings and in Nu's Notes.

Chris Berto - [REDACTED]

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



### Thursday, January 18, 2024

2:00 p.m. Sign in; 2:15 p.m. Program, and  
3:00 p.m. Meeting

**Peoria Regional Learning Center**, 908 N.  
Sterling, Peoria

**Program:** *Together Again: A Tour of the Peoria  
Regional Learning Center; Teresa VanRohr,  
Principal*

**Purposes:** 1, 4, 6, 7

**Music:** *School Days*

**Donations:** Supplies for the Peoria Regional  
Learning Center

**Activities/Reports:** Membership; Professional  
Advancement and Outreach; Educational  
Excellence

**Hostess:** Educational Excellence - Program  
Committee

## Saturday, January 20, 2024

**Side by Side at Mary Jane Sterling's home**

9:30 a.m. [REDACTED]

## Saturday, February 3, 2024

11:30 a.m. Sign in; 11:45 a.m. Program, and  
12:30 p.m. Meeting

**Proctor Place, Multipurpose Room**, 2724 W.  
Reservoir Blvd., Peoria

**Program:** *Together Again for Potluck and Share  
a Favorite Book; Nu Members*

**Purposes:** 1, 6, 7

**Music:** *Books, Books, Books I Read*

**Donations:** Books for PPL; monetary  
donation for Friends of PPL

**Activities/Reports:** Communications and  
Marketing, Professional Advancement and  
Outreach; Educational Excellence

**Hostess:** Educational Excellence - Program  
Committee

## Saturday, April 6, 2024 Coordinating Council Meeting

The Peoria Area Coordinating Council will  
meet at the Sunset Hills Eatery (formerly  
Mashies) in Pekin. The address is 1620  
Summit Drive. We will have a  
brunch buffet. The program will be announced  
later.

Mark your calendar now because it's always  
fun to get together with other DKG members in  
the area.



## Side by Side Come one Come all.....



**WANTED:** Hostess for Side by Side in the month of May.

**REWARD:** Good times with your Nu sisters

No need to clean your house. No need to cook. Just welcome a group of us to visit and work on our favorite craft or needlework project. Saturday mornings seem to be a popular time, but you can choose the day and time that work best for you.

Please let Kathy Johnson ( [REDACTED] ) know if you'd like to be the May hostess.

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME.** You do not even need to bring a craft to work on. Just come and enjoy the company.

## READ....READ...READ

Keep track of minutes you have been reading. We will let you know how Shirley will collect them.



## Conservation@Home

Paul Resnick will present the program, Growing Native Plants, at our March 6 meeting. If you're interested in conservation or landscaping your home in a conservation-minded way, you can check out Conservation@Home, a program brought to Peoria by the Illinois Extension service.

Their website is [extension.illinois.edu/fmpt/conservationhome](http://extension.illinois.edu/fmpt/conservationhome). There you'll find lots of information, guidance, advice and criteria for your home yard.

**On Thursday, January 18, at 2 p.m.,** we will meet at the Peoria Regional Learning Center; and we plan to give them donations of supplies. The following is the wish list from their website:

- Copy Paper (White)
- Kleenex
- Cleansing wipes
- Dry Erase Markers
- Black Sharpies
- Colored Sharpies
- Small Gift Cards for Student Incentives (\$5/each - food, gas, etc.)
- Gift Cards to provide Student lunches (Casey's, Subway, Hy-Vee, Little Caesars, etc.)
- Small Tokens for Incentive Box (fidgets, deodorant, Chapstick, journals, fun socks, etc.)
- Journals
- Air Freshener Cans
- Treats for Students
- Cases of Gatorade, Water, Propel (no soda please)
- Individually wrapped mints
- Fun Size Candy
- Motivational Posters

If you know that you can't attend the meeting, you can drop off supplies at my house or if needed, I can pick them up from you. Let's show our generosity and help the school and students!

We will also be giving them a monetary donation from the cookie sales at our December meeting.

The Learning Center is located at 908 N. Sterling, in West Peoria. It is in the Franciscan Center building at the corner of Sterling and Heading.