



# Nu's Notes



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

Volume 46, Number 1

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professional and personal growth of women educators and

excellence in education.

Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide (Vision)

### 2020-2022 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
- CAR Facebook page: dkg-ilsowiacar
- YouTube: Delta Kappa Gamma, Illinois, key women educators
- Zoom sessions: [nuchapterdkg@weebly.com](mailto:nuchapterdkg@weebly.com)



## Welcome Back!

It's official – the CDC has declared that the Covid pandemic is over! Now we can all get Together Again to enjoy each other's company, to find out what our sisters have been doing the past 2 years and to discover new opportunities that Nu chapter is offering. Two of our chapter's goals this year are to have at least 50% of our members attend our meetings and at least 50% of our members participate in our volunteer outreach work. Connie Voss, Cam Ratcliffe, Roberta Koscielski, and Julie Frank have planned a year of great programs and music on a variety of days and at a variety of times to be convenient for everyone. Please join us at meetings and volunteer experiences - to support each other and to treat yourself to the joy of being together – in-person – again.  
-- Cathy

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

## Professional Advancement and Outreach

When Independence Village of Peoria put in a call for help to Peoria Public Library, newly retired librarian and Nu Chapter member Roberta Koscielski asked other members to volunteer with her to organize the senior living center's resident library. Roberta, Chris Berto, Cathy Curtis, and friend Tom Menger worked over 3 days in late May/early June to sort, alphabetize, and shift hundreds of books that were on tables and interfile them with books already on the shelves in the resident library. Independence Village staff were pleased with the quickness of project completion and the volunteers enjoyed working with each other and with books.

In advance of the start of a new school year, Nu Chapter members volunteered to help Peoria Public Library staff at back to school events at select Peoria schools. Kathy Johnson, Mary Jane Sterling, Chris Berto, Julie Frank, and Cathy Curtis covered hours at Charter Oak, Holy Family, and Franklin schools to help children sign up for library cards and get library goodies.

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month and to encourage primary, middle, and high school students to have library cards, nine Nu Chapter members delivered stacks of library card applications to 30 Peoria schools. They will pick up completed applications and then deliver the new library cards to the schools after they have been issued by Peoria Public Library.

### Upcoming DKG Learning Opportunities

Tuesday, October 18 7-8 pm via Zoom  
Mental Health - Keppen Clanton, Chi Chapter

Wednesday, October 19 7-8 pm via Zoom  
Legislation & Pensions - Cynthia Riseman and  
Nick Yelverton from the IFT

Thursday, October 20. 7-8 pm via Zoom  
Banned Books Presenter To Be Determined  
Zoom links will be emailed to members via  
"What's Happening."

## 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.

## 2022-2023 Yearbook – Team Effort

"The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team." Phil Jackson

A special thanks to the Nu Team:

- Each of you for responding this summer regarding updates to your directory information
- Cathy Curtis, Connie Voss and EEC committee for their input regarding programs and activities
- Executive Board for input regarding final details
- Mary Jane Sterling for proofing copy/formatting
- Members who volunteered to hand deliver yearbooks
- Dorothy Dean for providing labels

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

Chris Berto - [REDACTED] call or text  
[REDACTED]

## Chapter Rules

The current Nu Chapter Rules appear in the 2022-2023 yearbook and are on file with the ILSO Rules Chair. Nu Chapter Rules outline current practices, procedures, and guidelines as voted upon by Nu Chapter members and are in compliance with International and ILSO governing documents. Please review and if you have questions or suggested amendments, contact Chris Berto [REDACTED] call or text [REDACTED]

## Highlights from ILSO Executive Board Meeting

*By Cathy Curtis*

It was a pleasure to represent you all at the ILSO Exec meeting on September 17. Here are a few of the highlights.

- 1) Mary Jane Sterling was praised for her work in helping create a new, easier, more user friendly (“no more than 3 “clicks” to find anything!”) ILSO website.
- 2) The M. Josephine O’Neil Arts award has been increased to up to \$10,000. The deadline for letters of intent to apply for the award is January 1.
- 3) If you request to receive the **Newscaster** on-line, use the password “sisters”.
- 4) Several small changes in the Standing Rules were approved. Chris Berto has already updated our chapter rules to accommodate the changes.
- 5) Recommendations for State officers, committee chairs and committee members are due October 15 and the required forms (available on the ILSO website) are due by November 20.
- 6) The State membership committee is forming “affinity groups” from among the state DKG members to make it easier for women with common interests (gardening, Zentangle, quilting, etc.) to share their

enthusiasm and information via Zoom or social media.

More information about these issues will be shared at our meetings and in future *Nu’s Notes*.

## Past Meeting Minutes

### NU Chapter (#13) General Membership Meeting, May 5, 2022

Approved at the June 4, 2022  
General Business Meeting

**Program** Karla Wilkerson and Amber Lowery presented *Famous Peoria Women Buried in Springdale Cemetery*.

**Call to Order** President Barb Blanco called the meeting to order at 5:23 p.m. at Peoria Public Library Main Branch. A quorum was present with 12 members in attendance.

**Minutes** The minutes of the March 5, 2022 meeting were approved.

**Treasurer’s Report** (Cathy Curtis) The following report was presented and will be filed for financial review: Checking Account Balance March 5, 2022 \$229.71; Income \$80.00 (\$80.00 Coordinating Council luncheons); Disbursements \$121.74 (\$25.00 Coordinating Council dues, \$80.00 Coordinating Council luncheons, \$16.74 March *Nu’s Notes*/Dorothy Dean); Checking Account Balance April 18, 2022 \$187.97; CEFCU Savings Account Balance \$32.01; CEFCU Money Market account \$8,154.25; Total Balance April 18, 2022 \$8,374.23. Cathy will include in the next treasurer’s report the receipt and disbursement of the \$2100 stipend (awarded fall of 2021) from the Lambda State Foundation for Educational Studies, Inc. Dues of \$96 (members may take a \$20.00 offset) should be paid by June 30.

**Communications and Marketing** (Kathy Johnson) Kathy Johnson continues to send

birthday cards. *Nu's Notes* deadline is September 21. Dorothy Dean reported that the copy discount at Office Depot has been eliminated and line item amounts for yearbook and *Nu's Notes* may be impacted. Cam Ratcliff shared information about Peoria County Farm Bureau Manager Patrick Kirchhoffer's presentation at the Women's Civic Federation meeting. Members verified directory and next of kin information. Mary Jane Sterling is investigating Wordpress rather Weebly for Nu's website.

**Finance (Mary Jane Sterling)** Total proceeds raised for Art Mart from sale of *Delicious Kitchen Gambits* cookbook and *Household Hints* will be available following sales at Creative Arts Retreat in June. Christine Berto moved to suspend Standing Rule III.A. so that the proposed 2022-23 budget and dues could be voted upon by mail ballot prior to August 1, rather than being voted upon at the May meeting. Motion passed. Mary Jane Sterling moved that Nu Chapter approve the application for a Lambda State Foundation for Educational Studies, Inc. stipend for *Make the Arts Your Superpower through Storytelling*. Motion passed.

**Membership (Barb Blanco)** Barb Blanco presented a certificate to Cam Ratcliff for 45 years of membership. Laveine Birditt will also receive a certificate for 45 years of membership. Barb Blanco presented a rose, and Connie Voss presented a tribute to Robert Koscielski, Peoria Public Library Deputy Director, who is retiring May 13 after 38 years of employment.

**Coordinating Council (Connie Voss)** The April 1, 2023 Peoria Area Coordinating Council Joint Meeting will be held at Barrack's. Thirty-two people (including three guests) attended the April 2, 2022 joint meeting to hear Regional Superintendent Beth Crider. Cathy Curtis and Carol Sleeth will represent Nu Chapter on Peoria Area Coordinating Council for 2022-2024 with Carol serving as Vice Chair/Secretary and Cathy as Nu Chapter President.

**Installation (Barb Blanco)** Barb Blanco installed the 2022-24 Nu Chapter Officers:

President Cathy Curtis, First Vice-President Carol Sleeth, Second Vice-President Connie Voss, and Corresponding Secretary Kathy Johnson. Recording Secretary Mary Taylor was unable to attend.

**Unfinished Business** None

**New Business** None

**Announcements** Side by Side will meet May 7 at 10:00 a.m. at Kathy Johnson's. Members should RSVP Barb Blanco by May 10 regarding June 4 meeting/bus tour.

**Adjournment** The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Christine Berto, Secretary pro tem  
Barb Blanco, President

## NU Chapter (#13) General Membership Meeting, June 4, 2022

Approved at the September 1, 2022  
General Business Meeting

**Program** Cathy Curtis, Nu, conducted a historic bus tour of Peoria Heights, Grandview Drive, and Peoria's Near North Side.

**Call to Order** President Barb Blanco called the meeting to order at 11:55 a.m. aboard the bus. A quorum was present with eleven members in attendance.

**Minutes** The minutes of the May 5, 2022 meeting were approved as printed and distributed.

**Treasurer's Report (Cathy Curtis)** The following report was presented and will be filed for financial review: Checking Account Balance May 6, 2022 \$187.97; Income \$2,636.00 (\$536.00 dues, \$2,100.00 Lambda State Foundation for Educational Studies, Inc. stipend; Disbursements \$2,133.18 (\$2,100.00 Peoria Public Library-Foundation stipend; \$10.90 Membership/retirement flower, \$22.28

*Nu Notes*/Dorothy Dean); Checking Account Balance June 4, 2022 \$690.79; CEFCU Savings Account Balance \$32.01; CEFCU Money Market account \$8,154.25; Total Balance June 4, 2022 \$8,877.05.

**New Business** None

**Adjournment** The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Mary Taylor, Secretary  
Barb Blanco, President

## NU Chapter (#13) General Membership Meeting, September 1, 2022

**To Be Approved at the October 5, 2022 General Business Meeting**

**Program** Alyce Jackson, PPL Manager of Programs, reviewed the procedures for library card signup. Members prepared materials to be delivered to and picked up from assigned schools as part of Nu's service project with Peoria Public Library.

**Call to Order** President Cathy Curtis called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m. at PPL Lincoln Branch followed by recitation of the Collect. A quorum was present with ten members in attendance.

**Minutes** of the June 4, 2022, meeting was approved as printed.

**Treasurer's Report** (Mary Jane Sterling) The following report was presented and will be filed for financial review: Checking Account Balance April 18, 2022 \$187.97; Income \$2,276.00 (\$2,276.00 Dues); Disbursements \$1,947.27 (\$10.90 Retirement Rose, \$22.28 May *Nu's Notes*, \$58.00 Stamps/Altruistic, \$32.59 Checks, \$55.00 ILSO-Lambda State Foundation for Educational Studies, Inc./Scholarship, \$45.00 DKGIEF- Educational Projects/Golden Gift/Emergency Fund, \$1,040.00 DKG International Dues, \$598.00 DKG ILSO Dues, \$85.50 ILSO Fees-Scholarship/Leadership

Development/Convention/*Newscaster*); Checking Account Balance August 15, 2022 \$516.70; CEFCU Savings Account Balance \$32.01; CEFCU Money Market \$8,157.17 (\$8,154.25 + \$2.92 Dividends); Total Balance August 15, 2022 \$8,705.88. Thank you notes for DKGIEF contributions were received.

**Membership** (Carol Sleeth) Carol Sleeth presented Connie Voss with a Past President's Pin for her service as president during the 2018-2000 biennium.

**Communications and Marketing** (Kathy Johnson) *Nu's Notes* deadline is September 21. Nu's website is being updated.

**Finance** Cathy Curtis reported that the proposed budget for 2022-2023 was approved by mail ballot July 29, 2022.

**Educational Excellence** (Connie Voss) The October 5<sup>th</sup> program at North Branch will involve each member briefly sharing her favorite book. DKG information will be shared with prospective members. Meetings/programs for 2022-23 are as follows:

**Tues., Nov. 1, 2022, Together Again: The Dream Center**, Andy King, Executive Director; PPL Main; 3:45 p.m. Sign-in; 4:00 p.m. Program; 4:45 p.m. Meeting

**Sat., Dec. 10, 2022, Together Again for Potluck Brunch and Crafts**, Nu Members and Library Staff; PPL North; 10:00 a.m. Sign in; 10:15 a.m. Meeting; 10:45 a.m. Brunch

**Mon., Feb. 6, 2023, Together Again: PCAV (Peoria Community Against Violence)**, Becky Rossman, Executive Director; PPL Lakeview; 3:30 p.m. Sign-in; 3:45 p.m. Program; 4:30 p.m. Meeting

**Mon., Mar. 6, 2023, Together Again for Peoria Reads Book Discussion**, Roberta Koscielski, Nu Member; Proctor Place; 3:30 p.m. Sign-in; 3:45 p.m. Program; 4:30 p.m. Meeting

**Sat., May 6, 2023, Together Again for Math in Movies and TV**, Mary Jane Sterling, Nu

Member; PPL North; 10:00 a.m. Sign-in  
10:15 a.m. Program; 11:00 a.m. Meeting

**Sat., June 3, 2023, Together Again for Peoria History Tour II**, Cathy Curtis, Nu Member; 10:00 a.m. Sign-in; 10:15 a.m. Program

Thurs., Sept. 7, 2023, Wildlife Prairie Park  
*Together Again: Wildlife Prairie Park*, Roberta English, Executive Director; PPL North, Seminar Room; 6 p.m. Sign-in; 6:15 p.m. Program; 7:00 p.m. Meeting

**Wed., Oct. 5, 2023, Together Again: Peoria Public Schools**, Dr. Sharon Kherat, Superintendent; Administration Building, 3:00 p.m. Sign-in; 3:15 p.m. Program; 4:00 p.m. Meeting

2022-2023 Side by Side schedule: Kathy Johnson's home - 9/24/22 10:00 a.m.; 1/21/23 10:00 a.m.; 3/13/23 3:00 p.m.; 5/20/23 10:00 a.m.; Mary Jane Sterling's Home 11/7/22 3:30 p.m.

Roberta Koscielski will email members titles of challenged/banned books, and members are to respond to Roberta regarding their preference. The book receiving the most votes will be the book to be discussed at the March meeting. Julie Frank led members in singing *Happy Together*.

**Professional Advancement and Outreach** (Roberta Koscielski) Roberta Koscielski reported that members (Kathy Johnson, Mary Jane Sterling, Chris Berto, Cathy Curtis, Mary Taylor, Roberta Koscielski) had assisted with library card signup at Charter Oak, Mark Bills, Holy Family, and Franklin Schools, and with organizing Independence Village's library. A Lambda State Foundation for Educational Studies, Inc. stipend application will be resubmitted by November 1.

**Unfinished Business** None

**New Business** Attendance/participation goals were discussed and will be included as Nu Chapter goals for 2022-23.

**Adjournment** The meeting adjourned 5:45 p.m. with the singing of *The Delta Kappa Gamma Song*

--Mary Taylor, Secretary  
--Cathy Curtis, President



## 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.

## March 2023 Book Discussion

As decided by the voters, Nu Chapter will discuss *The Bluest Eye* at our March 2023 meeting.

Here is some information about the book:

*The Bluest Eye*, debut novel by Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison, was published in 1970. Set in Morrison's hometown of Lorain, Ohio, in 1940–41, the novel tells the tragic story of Pecola Breedlove, an African American girl from an abusive home. Eleven-year-old Pecola equates beauty and social acceptance with whiteness; she therefore longs to have "the bluest eye." Although largely ignored upon publication, *The Bluest Eye* is now considered an American classic and an essential account of the African American experience after the Great Depression. It is one of the top 10 most challenged books of 2021.

Thank you to everyone who voted!  
Roberta

## READ...READ...READ

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



## Check the website for stipend deadlines

May 1 and November 1 are the deadlines for applications for stipends from the Lambda State Foundation for Educational Studies, Inc.

Guidelines, rubric, and the application form can be found under Foundation on the state website: [www.deltakappagamma.org/IL/](http://www.deltakappagamma.org/IL/)



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### Tuesday, November 1, 2022

3:45 p.m. Sign in; 4:00 p.m. Program;  
4:45 p.m. Meeting

**Peoria Public Library Main Branch,**  
Classroom A, 107 N. E. Monroe, Peoria

**Program:** *Together Again: The Dream Center,*  
Andy King, Executive Director

**Purposes:** 1, 6, 7

**Music:** *Dream a Little Dream*

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

**Hostess:** Educational Excellence—Program  
Committee

### 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.

### Saturday, December 10, 2022

10:00 a.m. Sign in; 10:15 a.m. Meeting;  
10:45 a.m. Brunch;

**Peoria Public Library North Branch,**  
Mackenzie Room, 3001 W. Grand Parkway,  
Peoria

**Program:** *Together Again for Potluck Brunch and Crafts,* by Nu Members and Library Staff

**Purposes:** 1, 6

**Music:** *God Rest Ye with a Twist, and Requests*

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

**Hostess:** Educational Excellence—Program  
Committee

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



We are having so much fun with Side by Side that we would like to have it throughout the winter months.

- November 7, 2022, at 3:30 p.m. at Mary Jane Sterling's home
- January 21, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at Kathy Johnson's home
- March 13, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. at Kathy Johnson's home
- May 20, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at Kathy Johnson's home

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