

Beta Kappa Chatter

Ohio State Organization

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Cathy Tenney, Editor

August 2025
Volume 21 Issue 1



MESSAGE FROM BETA KAPPA CHAPTER PRESIDENT MELISSA BOWERS

Happy Summer Ladies!

Whew! I don't know when I've ever experienced a busier or hotter summer! Have you? June, July, and now August have flown by! School bells will soon be ringing (if not already!) and learning will commence. I must say I still get "back-to-school jitters", even though I'm retired. Do any of you retirees feel that way when August rolls around? I think those feelings will be ingrained in me for the rest of my life. Once a teacher...always a teacher!

Our first meeting of the school year will take place at Amos Memorial Library on September 8. We're in for a treat that evening when our own DKG sister, Marily Schweitzer, will lead us in card making! I can't wait!! She asks that everyone bring a pair of scissors and Elmer's glue. (If you happen to forget, I'll have some extras.)

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone on the 8th! Our last meeting on May 5th seems like so long ago!

Thought for the month:

The most wasted of days is one without laughter. ~E.E. Cummings



Go forth and find something to laugh about...even if it's yourself!

-Melissa

Beta Kappa Officers

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Melissa Bowers

Vice President/Programs
Dr. Julie Willoughby

Recording Secretary
Cathy Tenney

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Kim Jordan

Corresponding Secretary
Bonnie Banks

Parliamentarian
Vicki Quinter

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

Beta Kappa Chapter Minutes
May 5, 2025

Beta Kappa Chapter President Melissa Bowers welcomed 34 members and Sara Sybert to the meeting.

Nancy Russell gave the invocation. Melissa thanked the hostesses, Jeanie Putnam, chair; Nancy Russell, acting hostess; Esther Alsphaugh Greeter; Kay Straman, and Kim Swartz.

Annie Webb Blanton (aka Faye Spangler) made a special appearance, sharing a bit of her life story and the founding of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

There were no additions or corrections to the April 7, 2025, minutes, and they are approved.

Kim Jordan gave the treasurer's report. We have \$7,175.87 in checking. The designated amount for the Scholarship Fund is \$1,016.00 as of April 30, which is included in the checking account balance. The treasurer's report will be filed for audit. Kim also shared a thank-you note from New Choices thanking us for our donation of \$275.00.

President Melissa recognized Vice President Julie Willoughby for recently being selected as the 2025 OAESA Outstanding Central Office Administrator.

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee: Regina Hunsucker shared that Kim Swartz has stepped forward to serve as vice president for the 2026-2028 biennium.

Old Business

The officers will be meeting in June to plan for next year's meeting. We are asking you to complete the survey that is at your place setting. A discussion was held on what we need to do to attract and retain new members, which focused on when we hold meetings and the possibility of offering virtual meetings. No action was taken, but it is something that needs consideration and planning for the future.

Birthdays

Members Faye Spangler, Melissa Bowers, and Molly Helmlinger, with May birthdays, shared a funny or entertaining story from their teaching career.

Concerns: Vicki Fulk's husband, Roger, has completed radiation treatments and should wrap up his chemo treatments this week. In mid-June, he will have surgery at the James and complete rest for two months.

Door prizes were awarded.

The next meeting is September 9, 2025, in the Amos Memorial Library-Community Room. The hostess committee for September is Tracy Hall, Chair; Bonnie Banks, Greeter; Sister Ginny, Invocation; Ernestine Daugherty, Vickie Quinter, and Evonne Schnippel. Reminder, the hostess checklist is on page 48 of your program book.

The meeting was adjourned.

Cathy Tenney, Recording Secretary

BETA KAPPA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Julie Willoughby, Director of Curriculum and Instruction at Urbana City Schools, was selected as the 2025 OAMESA Outstanding Central Office Administrator. Dr. Willoughby was recognized during the OAESA Professional Conference in June. Along with the recognition, Urbana City Schools received a \$500 award, which will be divided among the three principals' accounts to benefit students at each school.



Connie Schneider and Evonne Schnippel, longtime educators and friends, were inducted into the Botkins Wall of Honor in June. The Wall of Honor is designed to recognize notable Botkins Alumni and other community members who have brought honor to the Botkins School District or who have made a significant contribution to the district.

September 8, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.
Amos Memorial Library-Community Rm
Catered by the Spot

Program: Card Making with Marily Schweitzer
Business Meeting

Hostesses: Tracy Hall, Chair
Bonnie Banks, Greeter
Sister Ginny, Invocation
Ernestine Daugherty, Vicki Quinter, Evonne Schnippel

August
Candy Clayton 8/27
Sister Ginny Scherer 8/27
Barb Wical 8/27
Julie Willoughby 8/29

September
Nancy Nolan 9/3
Evonne Schnippel 9/17
Mary Lou Holly 9/21
Kay Straman 9/22
Nancy Russell 9/26



Nancy Russell was awarded Best of Show in the Any Technique - Sewing Machine Quilted for the baby quilt made for Eliza, her soon-to-be great niece, at the Shelby County Fair in the Fine Arts division. The pattern is Trip Around the World.

On Tuesday, September 23, Beta Kappa Chapter will be working at Culver's to raise money for our Early Career Grants and Grants-in-Aid. This will be the second year for this fundraiser, and we need your help and support. We will be working from 5 to 8 p.m., delivering food to the tables and cars as well as bussing tables. Volunteers are needed that evening. Plan to sign up to work one hour, two hours, or three at the September 8 chapter meeting.



MAKE YOUR *Meal Matter*

TUESDAY • SEPTEMBER 23 • 5-8PM

Join us in supporting Beta Kappa-Delta Kappa Gamma at Culver's in Sidney. A portion of all sales between 5-8pm will be donated.

There's no limit to how much heart you can put into the community. Enjoy a delicious meal, benefit a great cause, and feel good all over. Thank you for your support of Beta Kappa-Delta Kappa Gamma.



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News from OHSO (Ohio State Organization)



F ~ Future

Focus on the future

O ~ Open

Open to opportunities

C ~ Connect

Connections through communications

U ~ Unity

Unity uplifts us

S ~ Spirit

Seize the spirit

Opportunities through Ohio State Organization



Revised July 20, 2025

News from DKG International Society



CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE

STATES GROWING THEIR MEMBERSHIP BY **100 OR MORE** BY OUR 2029 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION WILL EARN THE PRESTIGIOUS TITLE OF **CENTENNIAL STATE ORGANIZATION** -- A LASTING LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP, GROWTH, AND COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE OF DKG.

WE'LL TRACK EACH STATE'S MEMBERSHIP GROWTH FROM 2025 TO 2029. TO EARN THE CENTENNIAL STATE ORGANIZATION TITLE, YOUR STATE MUST ACHIEVE NET GROWTH OF 100 MEMBERS--THAT MEANS GAINING AT LEAST 100 MORE MEMBERS THAN YOU LOSE THROUGH DROPS OR DEATHS OVER THE FOUR-YEAR PERIOD

WILL YOU SEE YOUR STATE'S NAME ON THE LIST IN 2029?

Blanton Stamp Advocacy

Help us celebrate **100 years** of DKG by writing to your legislator!



BLANTON STAMP ADVOCACY TEMPLATES

Two helpful templates are available to assist in the initiative to secure a commemorative U.S. postage stamp honoring Dr. Annie Webb Blanton.

The first template is for **DKG members (or other interested individuals)** to use. The second template is an **outreach letter to legislators**, which can be used to request that elected officials advocate for the stamp on your behalf. The third is a **sample letter for legislators**, complete with talking points and background information to help them draft their own letters of support.

Together, these tools make it easier to take action and promote the legacy of Dr. Blanton.

[Insert YOUR Name & Address]

[Insert Date]

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
c/o Stamp Development
U.S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300
Washington, DC 20260-3501

Dear Members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for a U.S. Commemorative Postage Stamp honoring Dr. Annie Webb Blanton in 2029. This centennial tribute not only marks a milestone in American education but also celebrates Dr. Blanton's extraordinary achievements as a transformative leader for women and educators nationwide.

Dr. Blanton was a pioneering educator and civic leader who broke historic barriers as the first woman elected to statewide office in Texas, serving as State Superintendent of Public Instruction from 1918 to 1922. During her lifetime, she championed public school reform, raised standards for teacher certification, and fought tirelessly to expand educational opportunities, especially in rural communities. Her vision and advocacy laid the groundwork for future generations of women leaders.

Dr. Blanton's vision, courage, and commitment to women's leadership redefined what was possible for women in education. Through her example, she inspired generations to break barriers and pursue excellence. Her efforts to elevate women's voices and opportunities within the field have had a transformative impact - one that continues to resonate today.

A commemorative stamp in her honor would pay tribute to a woman whose contributions significantly shaped American education, promoted gender equity, and exemplified the highest ideals of public service. Her life and work are emblematic of the type of legacy the U.S. Postal Service honors through its commemorative stamp program.

I respectfully urge the Committee to give this proposal full consideration. Honoring Dr. Annie Webb Blanton in 2029 would shine a spotlight on her remarkable legacy as a trailblazing woman leader and recognize the century of progress in education made possible by her example.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Insert Signature]

Please feel free to personalize your letter to your legislator!

[Your Name]
[Your Address]
[City, State, ZIP Code]
[Email Address]
[Phone Number]
[Date]

The Honorable [Congressman/Congresswoman/Representative's Full Name]
[Office Address]
[City, State, ZIP Code]

Dear [Title and Last Name],

I am writing to respectfully request your support in recognizing the extraordinary contributions of Dr. Annie Webb Blanton, a pioneering educator, advocate for women's rights, and a trailblazer in public service, by writing to the U. S. Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC) to recommend a commemorative U. S. postage stamp in her honor for issuance in 2029.

The year 2029 will mark the 100th anniversary of Dr. Blanton's founding of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, a professional honor society for women educators that now spans 17 countries and supports thousands of women leaders in education. This milestone offers a fitting occasion to commemorate her profound legacy.

Dr. Blanton holds a significant place in American history as:

- The first woman elected to statewide office in Texas, serving as State Superintendent of Public Instruction from 1918 to 1922,
- A passionate advocate for public education reform and the professional development of teachers,
- A key figure in advancing the role of women in leadership at a time when women's voices were often marginalized.

A commemorative stamp would not only celebrate her historical achievements but also serve as an enduring symbol of the value of education, equality, and civic leadership.

I kindly ask that you send a letter of support to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, which reviews nominations and advises the U.S. Postal Service on stamp subjects of national significance. Your endorsement would carry great weight in recognizing Dr. Blanton's impact on American society and education.

Thank you for your attention to this request and your continued public service. I would be grateful for the opportunity to provide any additional materials or context to assist with your letter to CSAC.