

# 2026

# International

# Convention Breakout

# Presentations

(Room numbers will be listed on the event app and printed program.)

↓KEY↓

Breakout Focus (Strands that organize sessions)

**Presentation Title**

Breakout Number

Description

Committee (if applicable); Presenter Name, State Information

# Wednesday

## Breakout 1: Wednesday, July 1, 2026 @ 10:30am – 11:30am

### Elevate Potential

#### **Awakening the Leader Within: Claiming Leadership Through Emotional Intelligence**

##### Breakout 1

Leadership does not begin with a title - it begins within. This session examines why capable women hesitate to lead and how emotional intelligence supports women in claiming their leadership with clarity and confidence. Participants will reflect on personal readiness, emotional awareness, and meaningful ways to lead authentically within DKG and their communities.

Dr. Mariné Avagyan, CA

### DKG Relevance & Engagement

#### **Keeping It All Together: How DKG Members Prevent Wardrobe Malfunctions**

##### Breakout 1

This lighthearted presentation uses undergarment metaphors to describe different DKG member types. It compares members to bras, shapewear, and other garments—each providing unique support like elevating others, covering responsibilities, or smoothing operations. The message: diverse member roles work together to create a complete, functional chapter, while humorously warning against being "a pain in the behind."

Connie Boggs, WV

### Empower All

#### **Fostering Integral Growth Through Structured Play Activities**

##### Breakout 1

Playful activities encompass games, leisure, sports, crafts, and recreation as pedagogical tools that enhance cognitive, social, and physical development. Integrating these strategies into educational or community settings fosters holistic growth, equipping participants with skills to support others and contribute to student learning and empowerment.

*This presentation will be given in Spanish.*

Ovis Angélica Forde de De Gracia, PM

### DKG Relevance & Engagement, Elevate Potential, Empower All

#### **How Can We All Support Recruitment and Retention of New Teachers?**

##### Breakout 1

Our DKG sisterhood represents key women educators in all "seasons" of their educational calling. All of us must band together to engage our newest educators entering our beloved profession. In this session, we will discuss ways we can empower ourselves to help rebuild our field as formal and informal mentors.

Denise Furlong, NJ

### DKG Relevance & Engagement

#### **Strengthening DKG's Tomorrow Through Passion and Purpose**

##### Breakout 1

An interactive experience designed to reignite passion, purpose, and commitment across all levels of the Society. Participants will reflect, collaborate, and leave with renewed energy, actionable ideas, and a clear sense of how purposeful engagement can build stronger chapters, revitalize participation, and create meaningful memberships that will change lives.

Dr. Debbie LeBlanc, IL; Linda Adcock, IL

#### Elevate Potential

### **The Power of Mentorship**

#### Breakout 1

Mentorship is a powerful and positive tool in education. This session will discuss the impact of mentor-mentee relationships on personal and professional growth, student achievement, teacher retention, and school environment. Attendees will leave with practical, actionable recommendations and clear steps for initiating and strengthening effective mentorship.

Susan Perkins, KS

#### Elevate Potential

### **StoryWalk with DKG — A Community Literacy Project**

#### Breakout 1

It was time for the chapter to update its community literacy project. In a county where the children rank below the state average in reading, Lambda Chapter chose StoryWalk®. Thanks to partnerships with DKGIEF, local and community donors, this on-going project ELEVATES visibility for DKG and provides a fun family centered activity of reading in the park.

Pamela Wright, NC

## **Wednesday**

### **Breakout 2: Wednesday, July 1, 2026 @ 2:00pm – 3:00pm**

#### DKG Relevance & Engagement

### **Celebrating Tennessee's Granite Jubilee, 90 years of DKG**

#### Breakout 2

Come learn how Tennessee members included multiple events throughout our state convention to celebrate 90 years of DKG for our Granite Jubilee! From radio shows about our founders to displays of chapter histories, special shirts, pins, proclamations, and a time capsule, TNSO highlighted the past and planned for the future.

Elaine Alexander, TN; Sherrie Collins TN; Nancy Davis TN

#### DKG Relevance & Engagement

### **Your Choice - Stay In, Burnout or Quit - Let DKG Help!**

#### Breakout 2

Presentation will focus on the ten most common concerns with educators today that affect how long they will stay in the profession, if they will become or will encourage others to be educators; what causes them to burnout and quit the profession. Strategies will be suggested as to how DKG can help with these issues.

Karen Carson, VA; Kristie McCray, VA

#### Elevate Potential

### **Are You an Artist or Scientist or Both?**

#### Breakout 2

Participants will take and discuss a quiz, "Are You an Artist or Scientist or Both?". This presentation is based on the idea that everyone is creative, that both the arts and sciences require creativity, and it is incumbent upon teachers to recognize the connections to STEM just as Leonardo da Vinci did.

Dr. Mary Jo Pollman, CO

#### DKG Relevance & Engagement

### **Chapter Triage: A tool for checking your chapter's pulse**

#### Breakout 2

Join the International Membership and Expansion Committee as they introduce a tool to help your chapter thrive.

Membership & Expansion Committee

#### Elevate Potential

##### **Pilates: is it exercise...a trend...a lifestyle?**

Breakout 2

What is Pilates? Do social media reels give a true depiction of Pilates? Whether you know these answers or have never heard of Pilates, come join the conversation! We will learn about Joseph Pilates, the Pilates method, and how you can begin your practice regardless of your stage of life.

Dr. Alicia Pruitt, PT, NCPT, LA

#### DKG Relevance & Engagement

##### **Everything DKG (Trivia Game)**

Breakout 2

Think you know everything about DKG? Test your DKG knowledge of symbols, world capitals, flags, Greek alphabet, Founders, committees, the song, etc. in this fun game setting. If you are quick on the buzzer, you and your team could win fabulous prizes.

Jeanette Rhyan, TX

#### Elevate Potential

##### **My Experience With DNA Sequencing**

Breakout 2

DNA sequencing is now available to everyone, but not everyone takes advantage of this opportunity due to fear of the unknown. Learn what DNA sequencing means, and how we can take steps to learn about our bodies and our health from the resulting data.

Dr. Kammie Richter, IL

#### Empower All

##### **Engaging Assessment: Strategies to Reach Even Your Quietest Learner**

Breakout 2

How do we effectively gauge diverse student needs to drive instruction? This interactive session provides practical strategies to assess all learners through engaging group activities. Discover how to connect with students' prior knowledge and build classroom community while gathering the insights necessary to help every student thrive.

Nancy Varljen, TX

## **Thursday**

### **Breakout 3: Thursday, July 2, 2026 @ 10:45am – 11:45am**

#### DKG Relevance & Engagement, Elevate Potential, Embrace Change, Empower All

##### **Recruit, Empower, Engage, and Inspire: Energizing DKG Chapters for Sustainability**

Breakout 3

Are you ready to energize your chapter and shape DKG's second century? Gain ideas to recruit, empower, engage, and inspire individuals to build a sustainable Society. Discover proven strategies and actionable tools for membership growth, meaningful philanthropy, leadership development, and embracing change for growth. Leave energized, equipped, and ready to lead!

Dr. Kimberly Beckerdite, VA; Melissa Patterson, VA

#### Empower All

### **Exploring Educator Legacies and Avenues for Encouraging Future Educators**

#### Breakout 3

Each of us has educators who have inspired us and whom we have inspired. In this interactive session, participants will explore program ideas to honor past educators and encourage and retain future educators. Participants will reflect on their own legacy and leave with actionable steps to engage and uplift current and future educators.

Dr. Amie Cieminski, CO; Dr. Kristine J. Melloy, CO

#### Elevate Potential

### **Education-Spark Lab: A Workshop for Igniting Creativity, Leadership, and Ideas**

#### Breakout 3

This energetic, hands-on session turns professional growth into a creative adventure. Participants will rotate through innovation stations, tackle playful leadership challenges, co-build imaginative solutions, and collaborate in mini design sprints. Facilitators guide experimentation, spark joyful learning, and help attendees transform inventive ideas into practical strategies they can use immediately.

Dr. Tia Neal, LA; Mitzi Quinn, LA; Dr. Lori Myers, LA

#### Elevate Potential

### **Addressing Trauma: Changing Lives From the Inside Out**

#### Breakout 3

Many children carry unseen trauma—some from profound loss, others from chronic stress. This session invites educators to understand trauma's roots and its influence on learning and behavior. Through transformative strategies—LifeLines, inspirational media, and storytelling—students reclaim their voices, build resilience, and begin envisioning hopeful, self-directed futures.

Linda Sainz, CA

#### Empower All

### **The Linguistically Diverse Classroom**

#### Breakout 3

Strategies for reaching ALL your multilingual learners, including those whose languages and cultures are unfamiliar to you. Learn how to acquire just enough of the language and discover just enough about the culture to make a true difference in the life and learning of everyone in your classroom.

Dr. Claire Smith, WA; Virginia Haberkamp, WA

#### Elevate Potential

### **SOLT 2.0 - Midpoint Check-In, Tune-Up, and Takeoff - Part 1**

#### Breakout 3

Gain fresh insight from Leadership Development, Membership, Finance, and EEC as they share updates, emerging needs, and practical tools for year-two success. This mid-biennium tune-up will strengthen your confidence, connect you with peers, and equip you with timely strategies to lead your state organization with passion and purpose.

Connie Rensink, TX; Daphne Cagle, CA; Patti Belknap, TX; Diana Haskell, OH

# Thursday

## Breakout 4: Thursday, July 2, 2026 @ 2:00pm – 3:00pm

### Elevate Potential

#### **Journey to Collegiate Membership**

##### Breakout 4

Join us for the story of our journey leading to the induction of WVSO's first collegiate chapter at Marshall University. We will go from the inspiration found at International, highs and lows of the bureaucracy dealing with the university rules and procedures, the bumps in the roads that we thought had stopped us dead in our tracks and the joy of finally inducting four extremely motivated and determined young ladies who have started their journey of establishing their chapter on campus. Our new sisters will share their vision and hopes as well as the progress they have made in the first year.

Diane Bowsher, WV; Gloria Urian, WV; Fiona Reynolds, WV; Cailey Hinkle, WV

### DKG Relevance & Engagement

#### **Connect, Create, Communicate: A Marketing Workshop**

##### Breakout 4

It's time to get your chapter noticed. This isn't just a lecture—it's a hands-on marketing workshop to turn your best ideas into action. We'll guide you through a simple, step-by-step plan to cut through the noise and reach the right people. By the end, you'll have a polished strategy, valuable peer feedback, and a clear roadmap to launch your marketing now.

Communications & Marketing Committee

### DKG Relevance & Engagement

#### **The Centennial Show Starts Now**

##### Breakout 4

Join the 2029 Centennial Celebration Committee for a one-of-a-kind adventure! We seek performers, tech crew, and narrators to creatively share DKG's 100-year journey at the 2029 Austin, Texas Convention. No history expertise required, just passion and curiosity. Each state organization is encouraged to have a representative participate.

Centennial Celebration Committee

### Elevate Potential

#### **I Just Can't Get It Done: Time Management Skills**

##### Breakout 4

Technology was supposed to give us more time, but has it? Come to this session to get some practical time management strategies that work, including techniques to prevent procrastination, getting started, strategies to meet deadlines, identifying and alleviating our time wasters, and using time saving tools to enhance our leadership.

Beverly Johns, IL

### DKG Relevance & Engagement

#### **The Golden Girls Guide to DKG Sisterhood**

##### Breakout 4

Thank you for being a friend- and a DKG sister! This lively Golden Girls inspired workshop uses Dorothy, Rose, Blanche and Sophia to explore relevance, engagement and belonging in today's chapters. Laugh, reflect and leave with practical ideas to honor every personality, strengthen sisterhood and keep members connected, involved and still golden.

Emily Kelley, LA; Judy Rongey, LA; Jenifer Pace, LA; Dolly Weir, LA; Denise Baugh, LA

#### Empower All

### **The 45 Minute Auction Scholarship Sprint**

Breakout 4

Join the Colorado Alpha Mu Chapter for a masterclass in a Scholarship Sprint! Learn how to build a high-octane, 45-minute auction that fuels the dreams of early-career educators. We'll even show you how to design for success, turning any room into a high-energy bidding zone that funds multiple scholarships annually.

Therese Moran, CO; Elizabeth Henrikson, CO; Heidi Ragsdale, CO

#### Elevate Potential

### **Cultivating Leaders: Building a Leadership Academy Certificate Program**

Breakout 4

Developing leaders requires a strategic approach that motivates and equips members for sustainability. Illinois has created a Leadership Academy Certificate Program grounded in a logic model that outlines leadership content, delivery methods, implementation logistics, and certificate requirements, which will be explained and can be adapted to strengthen leadership capacity across states and chapters.

Dr. Margaret Trybus, IL

## **Thursday**

### **Breakout 5: Thursday, July 2, 2026 @ 3:30pm – 04:30pm**

#### Empower All

### **Integrating Mathematics and Science with Hands on Graphing Activities**

Breakout 5

Participate in hands-on experiments with graphing activities. Ideal for middle school science and high school mathematics classrooms. Graphs include many linear models, a square root model, and an exponential model.

Ronda Collette, CO

#### Empower All

### **Put Your Own Face Mask on First: The Benefits of Self-Care.**

Breakout 5

Practicing self-care is not selfish; it's essential. Self-care enhances social, emotional, psychological, and physical well-being, making you more productive in your life and relationships.

Cindy Dixon, AL

#### Embrace Change

### **Books that Sing! Books that Move!**

Breakout 5

Song and movement are hidden in many books where only words and pictures are initially apparent. This lively session will share books that use music to make authentic connections to student learning and other cultures.

These selections are great as "Brain Breaks," moments to refocus, reorganize and reenergize the brain.

Lillie Feierabend, CT

DKG Relevance & Engagement, Elevate Potential, Embrace Change, Empower All

### **Amplifying Women's Voices: Podcasting as a Platform for Educational Leadership**

Breakout 5

Attendees will be shown how podcast guests can amplify their unique voices and bring their specialized expertise to global audiences. As a leader of nonprofit podcast media, Sarah Jack has produced 300+ episodes reaching over 100 countries. Her show ranks in the top 15% of Spotify video podcasts and she has been featured on NPR, BBC, and The New York Times.

Sarah Jack, CO

Empower All

### **Moving from Bystander to Upstander: Exploring Conflict Competence**

Breakout 5

Have you ever witnessed a situation and felt uncertain how to respond? This workshop introduces conflict competence strategies to help participants move from standing by to standing up. Participants will examine how to navigate challenging situations involving microaggressions, bias, or conflict and consider when and how to intervene effectively.

Kathlan Latimer, CA

DKG Relevance & Engagement, Empower All

### **#SecondCenturyDKG Leaving a Legacy Through Traditional and Non-Traditional Membership**

Breakout 5

Moving forward with #secondcenturydkg, we will examine how past actions of DKG sisters impact current members of traditional/non-traditional pathways. Participants will discuss creative ways to welcome all key women educators, opening the dialogue for new ideas that are well rounded, inclusive, and beneficial for members to leave a #secondcenturydkg legacy.

Sandra Pruitt, LA; Dr. Alicia Pruitt, LA

Elevate Potential

### **SOLT 2.0 - Midpoint Check-In, Tune-Up, and Takeoff - Part 2**

Breakout 5

Gain fresh insight from Leadership Development, Membership, Finance, and EEC as they share updates, emerging needs, and practical tools for year-two success. This mid-biennium tune-up will strengthen your confidence, connect you with peers, and equip you with timely strategies to lead your state organization with passion and purpose.

Connie Rensink, TX; Daphne Cagle, CA; Patti Belknap, TX; Diana Haskell, OH

Elevate Potential, Empower All

### **Elevating Educators: Mentorship Models That Empower Women to Lead**

Breakout 5

This interactive session explores mentorship models that empower women educators to lead with confidence and purpose. Participants will examine effective mentoring structures, engage in reflective and collaborative activities, and design practical mentorship plans to support leadership growth, professional excellence, and sustained impact within schools and organizations.

Dr. Angela Sanders, TX

# Friday

## Breakout 6: Friday, July 3, 2026 @ 10:45 am – 11:45am

### Elevate Potential

#### **Rocket into the Creative Zone—Inspiration Starts Here!**

##### Breakout 6

Come see where imagination meets reality!! The Arts & Humanities committee is hosting a feast for the eyes and soul, featuring poems, pottery and photos, to cutting-edge AI and digital art. Think you're an art aficionado? Test your wits with our Art Trivia. And don't move a muscle—we're giving away swag!

Arts & Humanities Jury

### DKG Relevance & Engagement, Elevate Potential, Embrace Change, Empower All

#### **Smartphone Photography and Visual Storytelling**

##### Breakout 6

Unlock the power of your smartphone to tell impactful stories! This hands-on workshop teaches iPhone and Android techniques to capture high-quality images. Learn simple composition and lighting tips to document family and community life using photography as a tool for advocacy and inclusion. You will be ready to shoot!

Candy Ganzel, IN

### DKG Relevance & Engagement, Elevate Potential, Embrace Change, Empower All

#### **Baking Up a Sweet Leadership Academy**

##### Breakout 6

This session will include the perfect "recipe" for planning an event that will grow and empower leaders. Participants will learn about leadership "ingredients", "flavor boosters", and "sweet surprises" through hands-on activities that engage all members. Topics will include how to teach and promote leadership through team building, reflection, listening, appreciation, and more.

Jennifer McSweeney, VA; Katina Keener, VA

### DKG Relevance & Engagement, Elevate Potential, Embrace Change, Empower All

#### **The Power of DKG Connections: Global Collaboration in Action**

##### Breakout 6

A DKG conference connection between Finland and Louisiana leaders grew into an international partnership. Their collaborative school visits demonstrated how DKG networks ignite meaningful relationships, professional growth, and shared best practices. This session will help participants discover how to create similar global partnerships and strengthen their own DKG connections.

Dr. Tia Neal, LA; Pia Nyman, FN; April Dunneho, LA

### DKG Relevance & Engagement, Elevate Potential, Embrace Change, Empower All

#### **Soaring High: The Life Compass Practice for Balance and Growth**

##### Breakout 6

Set against the breathtaking vistas of the Colorado Rockies, Soaring High invites women educators into a mindful space where writing, the Life Compass practice, and stress-management strategies help uncover untapped potential. Participants cultivate self-awareness, resilience, and empowerment while supporting both personal and student well-being.

Dr. Cynthia Pittmann, PR

DKG Relevance & Engagement, Elevate Potential, Embrace Change, Empower All

**Reclaiming Energy and Purpose: Understanding and Interrupting Burnout**

Breakout 6

In a profession built on giving, women are often expected to give the most. But can you thrive without burning out? This workshop empowers educators with research-based strategies to recognize, prevent, and interrupt burnout. Participants will examine stressors, explore boundary-setting and recovery practices, and develop an action plan for sustainable well-being.

Anita Roberts-Long, LA

DKG Relevance & Engagement, Elevate Potential, Embrace Change, Empower All

**Differentiating for All Students is Easier than You Think!**

Breakout 6

Students come in all shapes, sizes, strengths, and interests. Meeting diverse student needs doesn't have to be overwhelming. This interactive session explores differentiation through multiple lenses, including the use of AI as a planning tool. Teachers' needs also vary, so the session will model the strategies as you draft your next unit!

Nancy Varljen, TX

DKG Relevance & Engagement, Elevate Potential, Embrace Change, Empower All

**Painting Snow: Organizing Art Collectives to Support Equity Leadership**

Breakout 6

Painting Snow includes a water-colour painting exercise to demonstrate the significance of using art-based pedagogy to teach about diversity. The presenter will share her organizational practices in developing art-based collectives in Winnipeg Canada and how she applies inclusion-based exhibition strategies to support, train and mentor pre-service teachers in equity leadership.

Farra Yasin, MB