

A Report from The DKG Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana
July 12 - 16, 2022

I want to thank President Amy for giving me the opportunity to represent her and DKG Alaska at the International Convention. I was honored to do so.

The Executive board of DKG met for most of the day Tuesday, July 12 from 8:30 until 3 with a break for lunch. Tuesday evening was the opening session of the Convention and culminated in a "Second String Parade" which is a somewhat impromptu parade led by a New Orleans Jazz Band and followed by all participants in the Convention. The parade went down the escalators, out into the streets, around the hotel and ended at Sazerac House next door for the evening activity. It is a fun feature of New Orleans and popular with the local residents for weddings, birthdays, and other celebrations.

The second general meeting began at 8 a.m the following morning. As is the case with most general sessions for this and other DKG conventions, it was a blend of International Committee Reports and work on proposed amendments. Two different motivational speakers were part of two of the sessions. There were a total of 5 general sessions. I found the committee reports to be informative and the work on the proposed Constitutional Amendments interesting. Because there have been no in-person work sessions in 4 years, there were a large number of items to be addressed. Unfortunately, there was not time to address them all. Some of the ones not addressed are apparently quite controversial and will likely be resubmitted for consideration in the future. I am sure that headquarters will have the updates posted soon on the website. I had a definite feeling of being part of democracy in action.

The two speakers were very interesting. The first, Courtney Clark used her personal experiences to underline that when things do not go as planned, one has not encountered a Dead End, but rather a Detour. She has personally had many, many detours in her life - medical, personal, professional, and is now sharing her story. She is both a motivational speaker and an author. I appreciated her presentation.

The second speaker was Ingvi Hrannar Ómarsson from Iceland and he is an amazing person. He truly understands the importance of education and the developmental aspect of childhood, and truly knows what good educators need to do for the best experience for their students. He is not flashy, gimmicky, or flamboyant. He simply talks good common sense. I wish every local government and school board could hear him talk. He is truly impressive. He received the Icelandic Education Awards in 2020 for his outstanding contribution to education in Iceland.

There were a variety of Breakout Sessions and Take-Away Sessions offered and I was able to attend quite a few. All were interesting and I am glad I had the opportunity to participate in them. I also attended the Northwest Regional Breakfast,

The Society Luncheon, and the President's Banquet.

Two new features were the encouragement of "Newbees" to attend and there was a great effort to be sure the newer members of our Society felt welcome and informed. Members also had the opportunity to volunteer in various capacities. A couple of my friends did that and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves and their "behind the scenes" work. I will certainly consider volunteering in the future.

Friday morning began with a Celebration of Life/Ceremony of Remembrance for all those members who have passed away since the last Convention. It was very nicely done and the music was beautiful.

I attended the reception for Becky Sadowski and was thrilled to be able to talk to her for a few minutes. I noticed that at the Executive Board Meeting, when they introduced the former International Presidents, they have almost all been to Alaska for DKG functions. The two exceptions are Cathy Daugherty and Becky. New President Dr. Debbie LeBlanc seems like a really dynamic person and I think she wants to visit, so I hope that will work out.

Many of the Convention activities were recorded and are on the DKG App. I urge members to download the app and listen to the Keynote Speakers. The app shows a Convention Highlights choice, click on that, then on Speakers, and chose the one you want to watch. This feature will be available until next July.

Judy Ireton, Eta