

President-Elect Jennifer Lee-Alden

2021-2023 Biennium

Madame President, Past Pi State Presidents, Executive Committee, Executive Board and members, it is with an open mind and spirited heart that I accept the position of New York State Organization DKG President for the 2021-2023 Biennium.

Our theme for this Biennium will be “Moving Forward with Purpose and Passion.”

As I penned the words for this acceptance speech, or rather typed them on my laptop, I reflected on the Biennial Themes of two recent NYSO Presidents, Mary-Martha Harvey (2017-2019) and current President, Sue Kenoyer. I wonder if Mary-Martha ever considered the significance of reliable internet service when she identified “**Opportunities to Connect,**” as her theme in 2017? Or did Sue ever envision how much we would *crave* in person conversations today when she presented her theme, “**DKG: Opportunities for *Dialog, Knowledge and Growth***” just two short years ago?

I am sure we have all spent time reflecting on the impact the last fifteen months has had on our families, friends, communities and students. Many leaders were forced to “shift on the fly,” creating viable solutions as new challenges arose. President Sue Kenoyer, the Executive Committee, Committee Chairs, Area Councils and Chapter leaders should all be commended on their creative, collaborative and steadfast efforts to keep our membership engaged during a time that traditional meeting practices could not be carried out.

Now is the time to emerge from the confines of the global pandemic, to arise with the **resilience** and **open-mindedness** of those who founded our country and our organization. We will **move forward with Purpose and Passion**, reassessing what is **sacred** to our state organization, identifying the principles and traditions that we cannot exist without, and collaboratively **embracing** new practices and technology to create sustainability.

The important work defined above cannot fall upon the hands, hearts and minds of the few. I described myself in the opening sentence as having a “spirited heart” - lively, vibrant and energetic. I should also include persistent! To accomplish the goals of the Biennium will take the work of many leaders. Some will be asked to accept the opportunity to lead by serving as a State Committee Member or Chair. Others may be asked to participate in focus groups as we gather member input for part of our decision-making processes. Chapter leadership will be changing in 2022 and will offer another avenue of participation. Please be ready to answer affirmatively if you are called upon- your leadership and service are key to the future of our organization!

Thank you for recognizing my leadership potential and offering this opportunity to serve as your NYSO President for the 2021-2023 biennium. Working together, we will set and achieve our goals!

R - Resilience

O - Open-mindedness

S - Sacred

E - Embracing new practices