

United States Forum Connection

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

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The United States Forum advocates for women, children and education.

This publication is intended for your information about issues important to education, women and children. How you choose to use the information included here is up to you.

This free newsletter is sponsored by the United States Forum of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International is an organization of leading women educators with over 62,000 members. Delta Kappa Gamma members wishing to subscribe to this **FREE** newsletter should send a request to the editor Angela O. Bedenbaugh at **Bedenbaugh.Angela@gmail.com**. We urge you to share this newsletter with other interested individuals who are not members of Delta Kappa Gamma or members who do not subscribe to this publication.

Before you come to the NLS, get with the other women in your state and schedule your visits to your legislators for Tuesday, March 17. This is our day to visit Capitol Hill. Even if you are unable to get a time set with one of your legislators, plan on stopping by their office and leaving some information on the US Forum, a business card, and issues of concern. The steering committee will be providing folders and brochures for each state to use. Look for that communication to come out by email in early January. However, now is the time to start making contacts with your legislators.



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NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR

Now is the time to make plans to attend the **National Legislative Seminar**. The seminar will be held at the Holiday Inn Crystal City on March 15-18, 2020. The registration form can be found on the United States Forum website (www.usforumdkg.org). The main issues we will be addressing are issues such as human trafficking, gun violence as it pertains to school shootings, opioid crisis and vaping among our students, and mental health issues with students. There will be additional topics from survey taken at the international conferences this past summer.

Before you come to the NLS, get with the other ladies in your state and schedule your visits to your legislators for Tuesday, March 17. This is our day to visit Capitol Hill. Even if you are unable to get a time set with one of your legislators, plan on stopping by their office and leaving some information on the US Forum, a business card, and issues of concern. The steering committee will be providing folders and brochures for each state to use. Look for that communication to come out by email in early January. However, now is the time to start making those legislative contacts.

Be sure and take advantage of one or more of the optional tours that are provided. Check your registration form for more details. The Capitol Steps performance offered on Saturday night is very popular.

Come and enjoy the networking with other DKG members.

DRUG PRICES

As of December 2019 both AARP and Public Citizen are putting their efforts to move The “Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act” (**H.R.3**) to passage in the House. The bill addresses the cost of prescription drug prices and currently has 106 cosponsors in the House. The description of the bill in Congress.gov “To establish a fair price negotiation program, protect the Medicare program from excessive price increases, and establish an out-of-pocket maximum for Medicare part D enrollees, and for other purposes.” There is currently no corresponding bill in the Senate.

Many of the new drugs coming on the market are the result of federally funded grants to universities. These drugs should be priced reasonably as we paid for their development.

SANCTUARY

We have heard of sanctuary cities; however few people are informed by “sanctuary.” Several immigrants have taken sanctuary in a traditional place -- a church. Places of worship “churches, synagogues, and mosques” to name a few are “safe places” under a 2011 memo listing these as “sensitive locations” protected from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). That agency tried to get some of those in sanctuary out by levying fines from \$200,000 to \$500,000 which were finally nullified. There are about 1,100 religious institutions currently committed to offering sanctuary. It is of interest that the First Unitarian Universalist church in Austin, Texas is one of these institutions.

REPARATIONS

A topic which has recently been gaining interest is making reparations to descendants of slaves which were brought to this country. To that end the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act (**H.R.40,S.1083**). There have been several resolutions brought up in both the House and Senate. The House bill has 122 cosponsors and the Senate bill has 16 cosponsors. There are several items which have to be studied. 1) how does one determine who is a descendent of a slave, and 2) what form would the reparation take are only two.

LATE BREAKING NEWS

Three Chinese doctors who performed gene splicing on infants have each been sentenced to three years in a Chinese prison and fined over \$100,000 each.

2020 OFFICIAL FLAG FLYING DAYS

January 1 -- New Year’s Day

January 20 -- Martin L, King, Jr. birthday
(flag at half-staff)

February 12 -- Abraham Lincoln birthday

February 14 -- Valentine’s Day

February 18 -- President’s Day/Geo.
Washington birthday
(Third Monday in February)

April 12 -- Easter Sunday*

May 4 -- Firefighters Memorial Day
(flag at half-staff)

May 10 -- Mother’s Day
(2nd Sunday in May)

May 15 -- Peace Officer’s Day
(flag at half-staff)

May 16 -- Armed Forces Day
(3rd Saturday in May)


May 25 -- Memorial Day
(flag at half-staff until noon)

June 14 -- Flag Day

June 16-- Father’s Day
3rd Sunday in June

July 4 -- Independence Day
September 7 -- Labor Day
September 11 -- Patriot's Day
September 17 -- Patriot Day
(flag at half-staff)
October 12 -- Columbus Day
November 3 -- Election Day
First Tuesday in November
November 11 -- Veterans Day

November 26 -- Thanksgiving Day
4th Thursday in November
December 7 -- Pearl Harbor Day
(flag at half-staff)
December 25 -- Christmas Day

 Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon after equinox.

FORUM FACEBOOK PAGE LINK

For those of you desiring discussion of legislative topics there is a U.S. Forum Facebook page online at <http://www.facebook.com/DKG.US.Forum> and a Group page online at

https://www.facebook.com/groups/2269724846587657/?source_id=349823881770007

Let us know the issues that concern you and let your voice be heard!

FORUM WEBSITE: <http://www.usforumdkg.org/>

CONTACTING YOUR LEGISLATOR

If you wish to contact your senator to express your opinion, you can call the Congressional Switchboard at 1-202-224-3121. [This is not a toll-free number]. Another way of contacting your senator is via email or a telephone number which is not toll free both of which are available at

https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

Email access and addresses

<http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House of Representatives

<http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the U.S. Senate

White House 1-202-456-1111

FIVE CONSTITUENT CONTACTS WILL CAUSE A LEGISLATOR TO PAY SERIOUS ATTENTION TO A GIVEN ISSUE.

EDITOR'S LAST NOTE

The idea and name for the U.S. Forum Connection came from Joy Lauderbaugh of Washington State. As the newly elected U.S. Forum chair at the 2000 International Convention in Toronto, she proposed the publication and appointed me as editor. The first issue was disseminated in November 2000. That was 192 issues ago. It has been a satisfying to me to see the publication grow to over 2,500 subscribers. The current situation in Washington, D.C. has caused problems in finding material for the publication as little legislation is even being considered by the Senate. The House has passed over 240 bills few if any have been addressed in the Senate. In fact a surprising number of legal matters have found their way into the courts. The issue which will affect the largest number of people is the federal health care legislation currently being considered by the Supreme Court. The Roe versus Wade abortion issue is likely to be considered in this term of the Supreme Court also.

This will be my last issue as editor; however, I wish the new editor success and offer any help I can give. There are some things I have tackled such as the topic line in the email which had to be changed from U.S. Forum Connection to Forum Connection after it was discovered that the U.S. in the title caused the publication to automatically be regarded as spam and put in trash in some computers.

Remember – LOVE THY NEIGHBOR
NO EXCEPTIONS
