

U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #143, NOVEMBER 2015

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 80,000 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.

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EDUCATION FUNDING CONCERNS

With calls for reduced government spending, there is some concern that the big education bill in Congress will see cuts in Title I and Title II funding. At this time nothing is concretely known about what will be in the bill currently being debated by the House/Senate Education Conference Committee, but the possibility of funding cuts for Title I and Title II is being considered likely. (Keep in mind that whatever is in a conference committee bill which passes both houses, the actual funding for programs will be determined by the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance Committee and could be delayed for a year or more.)

PELL GRANTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The U.S. Education Department is considering implementing a pilot program which would offer Pell Grants to low-income high school students which would allow them to take and get credit for college courses while still in high school. If implemented could impact up to 10,000 high school students from low income families. The program would be advertised in the Federal Register for offering the opportunity for post secondary institutions (community colleges, colleges and universities) to apply to be part of a program which would have them work with secondary schools and/or school districts. The program would allow students to earn up to 12 semester hours college credit. Student who take advantage of this opportunity would have to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. Because of the recognized difficulty in filling out this form properly, it is recommended that local school authorities familiar with filling out federal forms should assist students who wish to apply. It is anticipated that this initial program would be available to public schools students only due to accountability issues.

FREE EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

A free program designed for 5-8 grade students which accompanies SciGirls (a PBS Kids television series). "SciGirls has made a commitment to providing quality, gender-equitable, inquiry-based STEM activities that are fun for all!" The program can be accessed online either as part of classroom teaching or as a supplemental after-school activity. Programs modelling an ecosystem (All Tangled Up), observing and identifying local birds (Bird Is The Word), looking at cloud characteristics (Cloud Clues), creating a field guide (Out and About) or identifying frog calls (Wetland Band) are part of the package. This is an excellent way to engage students who finish regular classroom assignments faster than other class members in useful activities or as an after-school activity to interest students in the world around them. To access the program go to <http://bit.ly/1NMWylX>.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR ADDED OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

A performance of "Capitol Steps" will be available to those who are arriving on **Saturday, March 12, 2016**, prior to the beginning of National Legislative Seminar. This live performance at the Ronald Reagan Building in D.C., begins at **7:30 p.m. (EST)**. Transportation is "on your own" (taxi cab, etc.). "Capitol Steps" is a musical presentation of skits of political satire/humor. By attending as a group of 10 or more, the individual ticket price decreases from \$40.50 to \$33.00. For more information, contact Wally Turner at 64sedona@gmail.com

A limited number of tickets are available for "110 in the Shade" at historic Ford's Theatre on Tuesday evening, March 15, 2016. The performance begins at **7:30 p.m., (EST)**. Cost of tickets for center balcony seats is \$30.00. Transportation is "on your own". If you are interested in attending the performance, contact: Wally Turner at 64sedona@gmail.com.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR DEADLINES

The registration deadline for the National Legislative Seminar (NLS) of the U. S. Forum being held March 13-16, 2016 in Washington, DC is February 13, 2016. Deadline for specially arranged room rates is February 12, 2016.

The registration form for the National Legislative Seminar can be found at <http://www.usforumdkg.org/legislative-seminar.html>. When completing the registration form, you should know that the cost of lunch on Monday is included in the registration fee; however, the cost of Sunday night dinner and Wednesday breakfast is not included in that fee.

All DKG members who reside in the United States are automatically members of the U.S. Forum and are eligible to attend the seminar. The current brochure about the U. S. Forum can be viewed at http://www.usforumdkg.org/uploads/4/4/6/6/44667559/2016_us_forum_brochure.pdf

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>

FORUM WEB SITE: <http://www.usforumdkg.org/>

CONTACT ADDRESSES FOR GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTACT INFORMATION can be obtained through Congressional Switchboard [1-866-327-8670](tel:1-866-327-8670) [this is a toll free number]. You can contact your Congressman and Senator through this number without paying long distance charges.

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](tel:1-202-456-1111)

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