**U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #141, SEPTEMBER 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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**NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR**

The National Legislative Seminar (NLS) of the U. S. Forum will be held March 13-16, 2016 in Washington, DC. The topics/issues which were identified from the 2015 Planning Surveys that were gathered at the U.S. Forum Session at the regional conferences this summer are:

bullying/cyberbullying

high stakes student testing

human trafficking

mental health/gun violence

pay equity/fair pay for women

The seminar will have knowledgeable speakers to address each of these issues. At the last seminar attendees heard from Congressional staffers as well as legislative liaisons from health and women’s groups who regularly work to improve women’s lives.

All DKG members who reside in the United States are automatically members of the U.S. Forum 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>

The registration form for the National Legislative Seminar can be found at <http://www.usforumdkg.org/legislative-seminar.html>

**FEDERAL COLLEGE AID FORMS REVISED**

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms have been revised to make the process easier. Filling out this form allows students access to grant opportunities, work study and student loan information.  The form is now available at <http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/attachments/112114Draft20152016FAFSAFormInstructionsAttach.pdf>.  A form which can be filled out on line is available at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov/). Because these forms have so recently been revised, this latter site may not be available right now.  The new forms allow applications to be submitted months earlier, and the financial information required is more easily supplied.  (Tax returns may be used. A toll-free number is given on the form where questions about the financial information can be answered.)  Also online are several organizations which offer free help in filling out and submitting the forms.  It is estimated that 1.3 million students who would have been entitled to the maximum Pell Grant in 2011-12 did not even apply for the grant.

**CREDIT CARD CHIPS**

October 1 is the deadline for retailers to have card readers which will read chips embedded in credit cards and for banks to issue cards containing the chips.  Any retailer without the chip reader or any bank which has not issued cards containing the chip will be fully liable for any fraudulent use of credit cards after that date. The one exception to this mandate is gasoline stations. These businesses will have to remove and replace concrete between the credit card machine inside the station and the card reader at the pump in order to install the new system.  Their deadline to have the readers in place is 2017.

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**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/>

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**CONTACT ADDRESSES FOR GOVERNMENT INFORMATION**

**U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTACT INFORMATION can be obtained through Congressional Switchboard 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/**](http://www.house.gov/) **for members of the House of Representatives** [**http://www.senate.gov/**](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.**

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