

U.S. Forum Steering Committee (2026-2028) Nominations

U.S. Forum Operational Guidelines, Articles V, VI, and VII, call for the election of Steering Committee members at a U.S. Forum meeting held during the International Convention. All U.S. Forum members present at the meeting (July 3, 2026) are eligible to vote in the election. Any U.S. Forum member may be nominated for Steering Committee positions and nominations are also taken from the floor.

The following nominations have been received to date for the 2026-2028 U.S. Forum Steering Committee: for chair: Dr. April Coleman (AZ); for SE Regional Representative: Dr. Cindy Dixon (AL); for the NE Regional Representative: Sharon Scheidegger (OH); for NW Regional Representative: Kay Stern (WA); and for SW Regional Representative: Susie Dixon (CA). Interest and background statements have been submitted by each candidate and are printed below. At the July 3 U.S. Forum General Meeting, when elections are held, every candidate, including those nominated from the floor, will have the opportunity to present a brief statement to the attending members before voting begins. Each statement should highlight the candidate's qualifications and outline their vision for the U.S. Forum in the next biennium.

Chair: Dr. April Coleman (AZ)



I attended my first National Legislative Seminar in 2024 and became interested in serving in a leadership capacity for the US Forum after that experience. In 2024, I was elected as Southwest Regional Representative and served as vice chairperson of the Steering Committee this biennium. In that role, I also:

- designed and administered a member interests survey to gather data that shaped the activities of the US Forum Steering Committee;
- prepared and presented a US Forum webinar on legislation tracking and advocacy;
- contributed articles to the quarterly Connections newsletter;
- co-planned and facilitated US Forum events for the 2025 International Conference in New Orleans; and
- co-planned the 2026 National Legislative Seminar.

I have also served as legislative chair for DKG Arizonia and with the Arizonia teacher's union. I believe that my active involvement in the US Forum over the last 2 years have solidly prepared me to lead the Forum in the next biennium. I am both humbled and honored by this opportunity to continue to serve.

NE Regional Representative: Sharon Scheidegger (OH)



My first forum experience was attending NLS 2024 as the Legislative Liaison for Ohio where I was encouraged to share information on issues in education with DKG members in Ohio and to teach them to use their voice in Washington D.C. I created a blog each month for the Ohio DKG members to stay abreast of legislative issues.

I was honored to be asked to participate on a panel on School Vouchers at the March 2026 NLS Seminar. As part of the discussion, I was able to share the history and growth of vouchers in Ohio. As a teacher in a Title One Charter school it was important for me to share the successes of teachers and the administrative team in a charter program, as well as its challenges.

I have been president of my chapter for the last three years. Raising funds for scholarship has been a goal of the chapter. This last year we raised over \$7500.00 to fund teacher grants, scholarships, and support for girls in middle school looking to learn about STEM.

If elected to the Steering Committee, I hope to bring the message of NLS to each state in the Northeast in hopes of growing awareness and participation in Forum activities and NLS in 2028.

SE Regional Representative: Dr. Cindy Dixon (AL)**



Although I have not yet participated directly in U.S. Forum activities, I have a strong history of community engagement throughout my life. I have collaborated with The University of Alabama on important projects, including revitalizing a struggling community, improving public transportation in high-poverty areas after the 2011 Tuscaloosa tornado, and advocating for improvement issues with elected officials at various levels.

As a teacher, I have educated my students about the Constitution, and I am committed to its principles. I am excited to extend my DKG participation through more active involvement in advocacy work. It would be an honor to serve on the U.S. Forum Steering Committee.

I have served as president of Beta chapter, Alabama for two biennia and as District IV area Director. I was a member of DKG NEXT class of 2022 and have presented at several state and international conventions. I hold a Ph.D. in Instructional Leadership with an Emphasis in Technology Integration, a master's degree in Secondary Language Arts, and a master's degree in Educational Administration. I currently teach middle school English.

NW Regional Representative: Kay Stern (WA)



I have attended US Forums at the State and International level and find I want to more actively support the work of the Forum. I have served as chapter legislative liaison for over ten years. As the Third Congressional District Coordinator for the "We the People Campaign," I was trained and advocated for civic education in the U.S. House of Representative offices and in the Washington State Senate offices. It is a passion of mine to assure that all children have the right and opportunity to an appropriate education.

I have been a member of DKG since 1976, serving on multiple committees, including collegiate membership, and as president for 2022-2024. I was Area V liaison/director from 2021-2025, serving on state convention and regional planning committees, as well as presenting workshops. I received a Cornet grant to provide a workshop on censorship for our area in 2024. I currently serve as state leadership committee chair. I believe my varied experiences would be beneficial to my role as a Forum representative.

SW Regional Representative: Susan Dixon (CA)**



I have attended two Legislative Seminars in Washington, D.C., where I engaged in national advocacy on behalf of educators and public education. In 2026, I served as a presenter for "The Long Road to Repeal & Building Advocacy that Endures." I also authored the resolution "Protecting Educators' Retirement Security," which was adopted. I am the California DKG Area XIV Legislative Representative and have been the CalRTA State Government Relations Chair and State President. With over 10 years of advocacy experience in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., where I was co-chair of the coalition to pass the Social Security Fairness Act, I remain committed to advancing policies that protect educators, strengthen retirement security, and support lasting advocacy efforts. I currently am a member of the Senate Social Security War Room under Senators Warren and Wyden.

I would be honored to take my work to the Forum, facilitating workshops and advocacy training sessions and continuing the recent work to not only make the Forum a visible but also vital component in actualizing DKG purposes.

**Cindy Dixon and Susan Dixon are not related.