



U.S. Forum Biennial Report 2024-2026

Prepared by the U.S. Forum Steering Committee for presentation

July 3, 2026



U.S. Forum Steering Committee 2024-2026

Pat Bennett-Forman (WA), Chair

Dr. April Coleman (AZ), vice chair, SW Regional Representative

Peggy Monroe (TN), secretary, SE Regional Representative

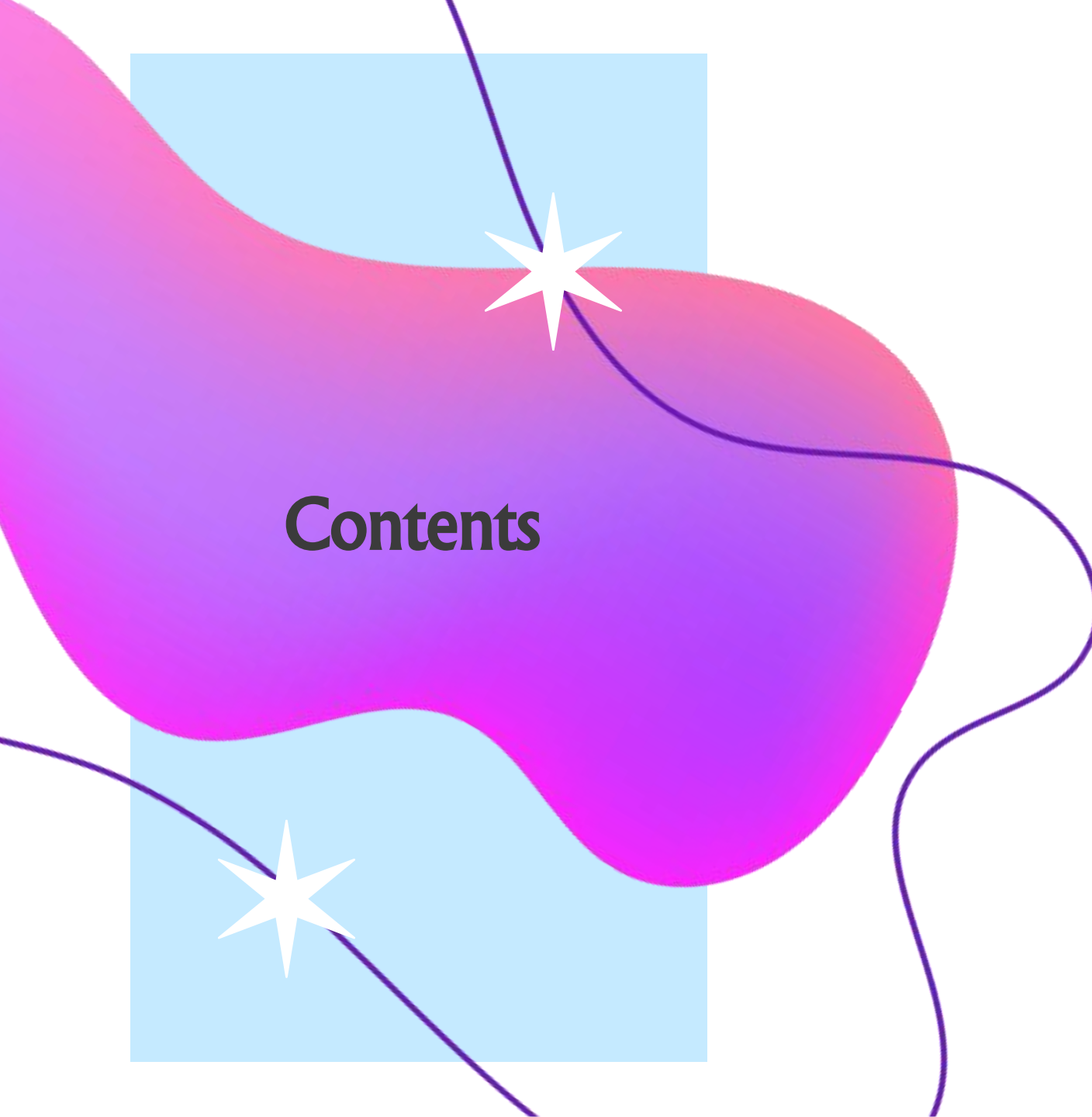
Sharon Welch (D.C.), NE Regional Representative

Tara Heikila (OR), NW Regional Representative 2024-2025

Lynn McNamara (AK), NW Regional Representative 2025-2026

Linda McCrary (TN), Treasurer

Dr. Beverly Hall-Maughan (TN), International President/Liaison to the Administrative Board



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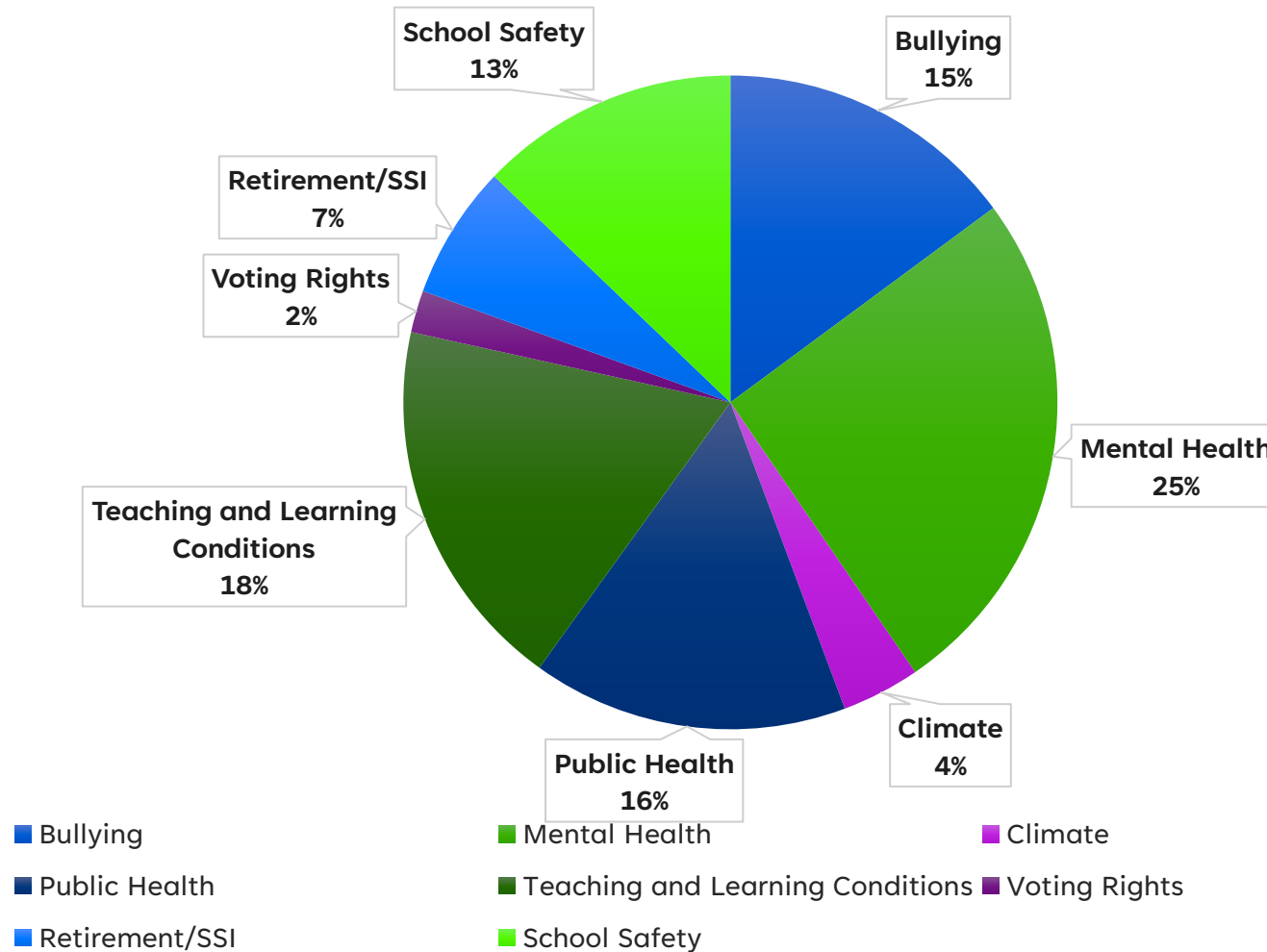
Introduction

Primary goals

Action Plan Results

Summary

Membership Determined Issues Priorities



Member Survey
December 2024

Engagement in Forum Services & Publications

Axis Title

Member Survey
December 2024

Participate in Webinars



Access the Website



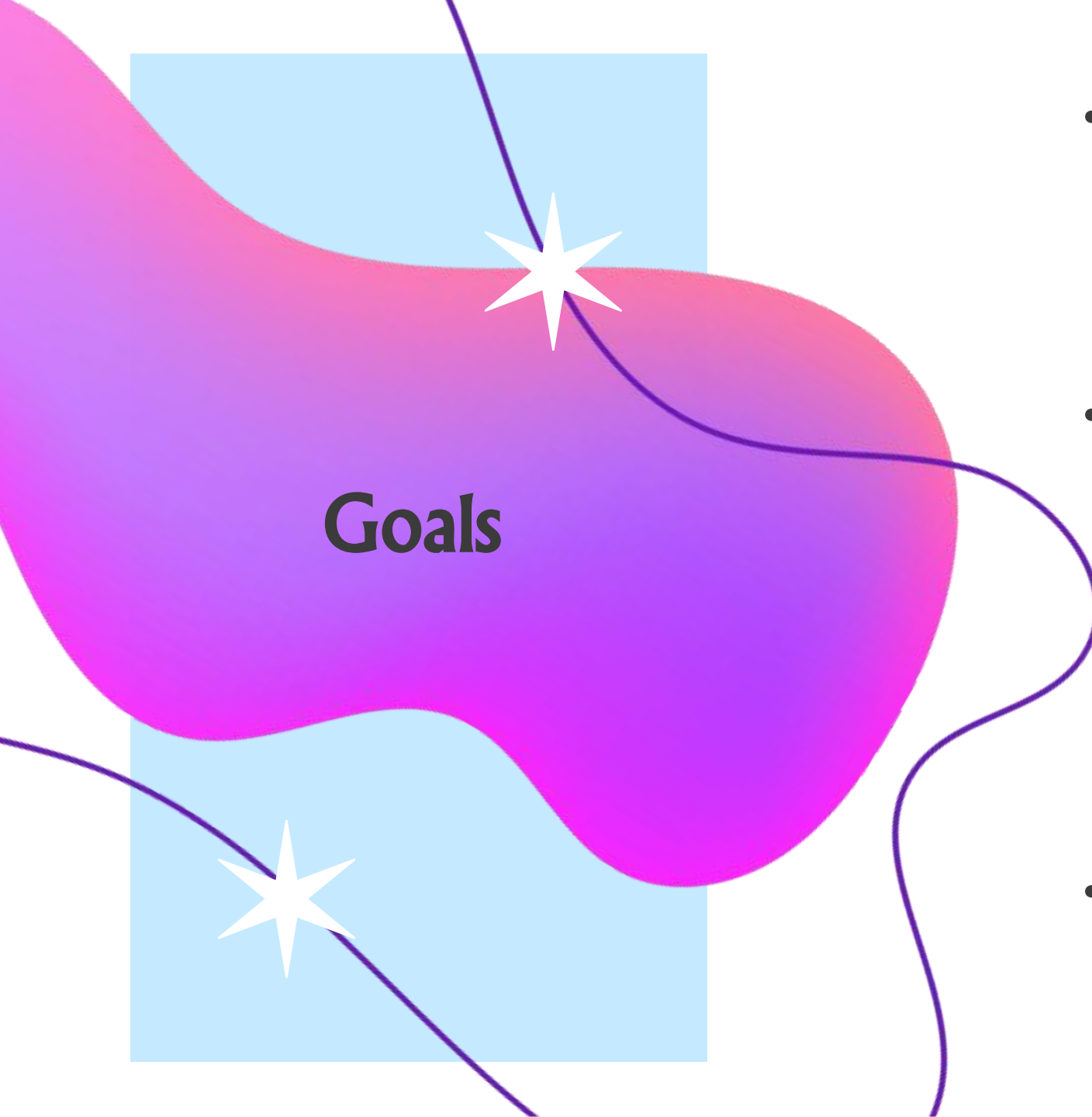
Familiar with the Facebook Page



Read Connections



■ Yes ■ No ■ Not Familiar



Goals

- **1) INFORM** members of current economic, social, political, and educational issues
- **(2) ADVOCATE**, initiate, endorse, and support desirable legislation or other suitable endeavors in the interest of education and of women educators, women and children
- **(3) INCREASE PARTICIPATION** in Forum activities

Activities and Results – GOAL 1: INFORM

- *Connections* Newsletter format was revised, emailed quarterly and posted on Forum website
- New website (dkgusforum.org) with easy navigation contains Legislative Updates, Alerts and other articles about legislation.
- Legislative Alerts and workshop notices were posted on Forum and DKG social media pages
- Open forum discussions were held at New Orleans and Aurora Forum General Meetings
- 4 Issue based webinars: Project 2025; Dept. of Ed Closure; Congress & Legislation; School Choice
- NLS: 5 speakers: Voting Rights; A.I. Guardrails; Federal Funding; Immigration Enforcement & Schools; School Choice, plus written issue statements on resolution topics
- World Forum speaker July 3, 2026 on Social-emotional Learning Post-COVID



Summer 2025

<https://dkgusforum.org/>

U.S. Forum Connection

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

In this issue:

- Legislative Action Day Panel NOLA
- National Legislative Seminar Challenge
- Advocating for Annie
- Amendments to Forum Guidelines
- Legislation to Watch

U.S. Forum Steering Committee

Chair:

Pat Bennett-Forman

Area Representatives:

Sharon Welch, NE

Peggy Monroe, SE

Dr. April Coleman, SW

OPEN, NW

Treasurer:

Linda McCrary

International President:

Dr. Beverly Hall-Maughan

CONTACT US:

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Calling Congress

One quick and effective way to communicate with your Congressional representatives is to CALL them and leave a succinct personal message.

House: 202-225-3121
Senate: 202-224-3121

Tell the operator who your congressional representative is, then when the office answers ask to speak to the staffer in charge of your issue or leave a message with whomever answers the phone.

From Passion to Policy: DKG Leaders Share How to Plan a Powerful Legislative Action Day

by Sharon Welch, NW Regional Representative

At the 2025 DKG International Conference in New Orleans, the U.S. Forum steering committee offered attendees a blueprint for planning meaningful legislative advocacy at the state level. A panel featuring DKG leaders Carrie Frye (FL), Kathy Kinley (CA), April Coleman (AZ), and Katina Keener (VA) offered practical insights from successful education advocacy events in their home states to encourage more states to sponsor their own Action Days.

Moderated by DKG U.S. Forum Steering Committee member, Sharon Welch, the discussion unpacked the "why" and "how" of organizing a Legislative Action Day (LAD) – highlighting strategic planning, community engagement, and the legislative tools every state organization in DKG can use.



Legislative Action Day panelists Katina Keener, Carrie Frye, Kathy Kinley, April Coleman and moderator Sharon Welch excited participants with shared ideas.

Panelist shared different models for organizing LADs – from half-day to multi-day experiences. Dr. April Coleman spoke about the important logistics: scheduling legislative speakers, preparing brief packets, and nating transportation. Whether your state is organizing a large-scale event, the key is early planning and clear communication.

Katina Keener shared how Virginia DKG builds momentum before a LAD by hosting regional meetings and virtual orientation sessions. Keener shared that

(continued on page 6 Action Days)

dkgusforum.org

Activities and Results – GOAL 2: ADVOCATE

- Issues Priority Survey administered December 2024
- Articles on effective advocacy published in newsletter, website and DKG Collegial Exchange
- Research summaries published in *Connection* Newsletter
- Transparent Resolutions Process adopted August 2025; 4 resolutions submitted since
- Website resources and tools page
- 4 advocacy skill webinars: Legislative Tracking; Engaging Legislators; Interviewing Legislators; Written Testimony
- 2 Breakout workshops: State Legislative Action Day; Membership and Advocacy
- NLS Pre-seminar trainings; models provided with talking points for Congressional meetings; mentors; first timer training; expanded welcome packet; speaker on long-term advocacy

Live on ZOOM

May 21, 2025
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm CDT
Registration required to receive the Zoom link

DKG U.S. Forum

Presents

ENGAGING your LEGISLATORS!

EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES TO MAKE LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS EASY

AN ONLINE DISCUSSION FACILITATED BY



Resolution: Protecting Educators' Retirement Security

WHEREAS, secure retirement is essential for educators, who have earned benefits through decades of public service; and

WHEREAS, federal proposals such as cuts to Social Security, delayed cost-of-living adjustments, raising the retirement age, and weakening defined-benefit pensions threaten educators' financial security; and

WHEREAS, threats to retirement security undermine recruitment, retention, and the future of public education;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Delta Kappa Gamma's U.S. Forum supports protecting and strengthening educators' retirement benefits; and

VED, that DKG's U.S. Forum urges Congress and policymakers to
duce earned benefits or weaken pension systems, and to support
financial security and dignity for educators in retirement; and

D, that DKG's U.S. Forum will continue to educate and engage
security issues and advocate for policies that honor educators'

**State Legislative Action Day Panel
August 2025 New Orleans**

Activities and Results – GOAL 3: PARTICIPATION

- Guidelines amended to create a transparent process for submitting resolutions
- Amended Forum election procedures for greater clarity and transparency
- Promoted NLS via newsletters, social media, communications with State Presidents/liaisons
- New logo affirming active advocacy role for DKG

- Contact list developed via sign-up on-line
- New brochure designed
- Postcard writing campaign with logo cards and directions for chapter activity
- Forum merchandise now available
- Articles in DKG *Collegial Exchange* Journal
- Presentations to Educational Excellence Committee, state conferences, and via webinars “About the Forum.”



Logo wear merchandise

National Legislative Seminar 2026



NLS
1st Timers

See You Tube video,
“Women Advocating for
Action,”
by Lienne Hill, first timer



Visiting
Congressional
Members



Facts and Figures

- Over 700 on current contact list (up from 60)
- Liaisons identified in 24 states
- Over 800 attended webinars
- 61 attended NLS
- The current DKG allocation is \$0.24 per U.S. Forum member

US Forum Financial Report July 1, 2024 – June 26, 2026

Beginning Balance July 1, 2024	\$ 3,649.08
Revenue July 1, 2024 – June 26, 2026	\$37,416.45
Expenses July 1, 2024 – June 26, 2026	\$31,265.75*
Ending Balance June 26, 2026	\$ 9,801.78

*PLUS . . Outstanding balance of **\$12,192.36** due to DKG International for reimbursement for 2026 National Legislative Seminar expenses and audio-visual charges for 2025 International Conference Forum meeting in New Orleans.

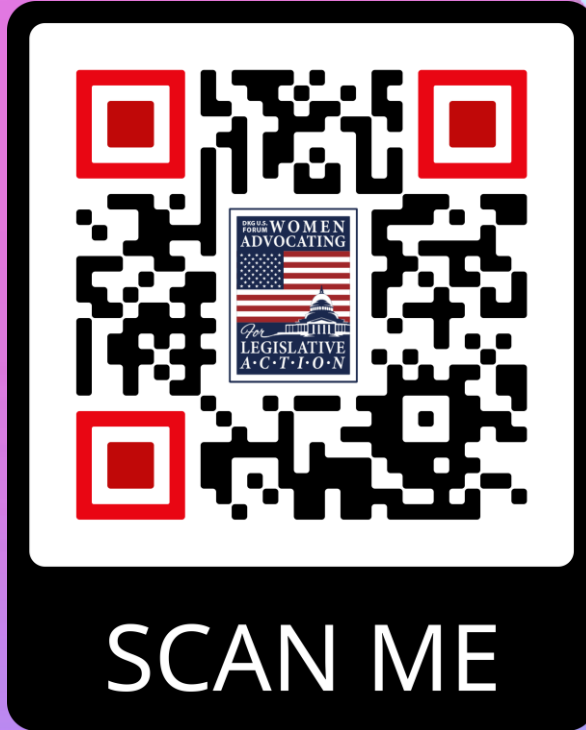
3 year repayment plan: reduce \$10,000 allocation by \$4,064.12 for 3 years (2026-27, 2027-28, and 2028-29).

adjusted balance (\$ 2,390.58)

Summary and Recommendations



1. Keep the momentum going:
continue newsletter, website, and promotions;
continue to offer workshops each quarter;
enhance the web site with discussion page.
2. Identify liaisons for EVERY state; utilize to spread the word about the Forum and its' offerings and to establish state-level Forums in each state.
3. Provide an issues-oriented Forum conference in 2027 via zoom.
4. Modify NLS 2028 so that it costs less for registrations and food & beverage costs.
5. Seek to increase allocation from DKG to \$0.50/member and establish reserve fund.



Addendum:
A. Financial statement
B. NLS 2026 final report