

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Florida Rays



Vol. 58 No. 1 Mu State Organization of Key Women Educators Fall 2012

Dr. Beverly Helms Installed as International President of DKG

Words cannot do justice in expressing the gratitude I have for each of you. Without the support of the members in Mu State, Florida, I would not be where I am today in Delta Kappa Gamma. Jesslyn McBride would be so proud of all of us. I felt her smile Saturday evening at the banquet.

You went beyond what you should have in honoring me at the reception. Thank you. My accomplishments are yours! I always say we are angels with one wing. We can fly only by embracing each other. You have always embraced me, and I will be eternally thankful.



I am trusting each of you to renew your efforts in sharing all the benefits of belonging to our organization. Make a special effort in your chapter to reach out to every member, regardless of their involvement at this time. Connect with them personally, engage them and help them to see the bigger picture. We must strengthen our Society and we will do it one member at a time.

I look forward to seeing my state organization reduce our decline of membership and become a leader in the Southeast, as well as in the International Society. We are in the top ten in membership (8th), and with an additional 300 members we could be #5. That's only an average of three new members per chapter. Regardless of our ranking, we need to continue sharing our vision and strengthening our Society for those who will follow. Let's be faithful in that effort.

Yours in DKG!

Beverly Helms, Ed.D.
International President, 2012-2014
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
P.O. Box 1589
Austin, TX 78767-1589
Phone: 512-478-5748
Sharing Our Vision - Strengthening Our Society



Photos courtesy of **Photographs by Jim**, Floresville, TX



Help us continue to save money on printing and mailing the ***Florida Rays*** by sending Your name, ID # and email address to lindad@dkg.org

There are still members whose names and email addresses have not been sent to international.

Chapter presidents were given a list of the members in each chapter who have not submitted an email address. Help us by doing it for your chapter.

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In Memoriam



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Carol Ann Golden
Delta Delta

Cheryl Manke Morrison
Delta Delta

Dorothea Trump
Beta Kappa

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Comments from Carrie

Carrie Frye, 2011 - 2013 Mu State President

"When you do nothing, you feel overwhelmed and powerless, But when you get involved, you feel the sense of hope & accomplishment that comes from knowing you are working to make things better."
by Pauline R. Kezer

Welcome to the second year of the 2011 - 2013 biennium. It has started with a bang! Much was accomplished over the summer, and most of you have already had a very successful first chapter meeting.

A group of 26 outstanding Mu State members attended the Jesslyn McBride Leadership Growth Seminar in Tampa on July 12 - 15. These women have much to offer and are ready to lead, so let's call on them!

On July 19 - 22, nine of us were in Washington, DC, to attend the Educational Foundation Seminar. Our own Dr. Elsie Gross, a Mu State Past President, has been elected to serve as the 2012 - 2014 Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Educational Foundation and will be planning the July 23 - 26, 2014, seminar to be held in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Put the date on your calendar and plan to join us

New York City was the site of the DKG International Convention, July 24 - 28, for which 60 Mu State members registered and at which our Dr. Beverly Helms was elected and installed as International President. How exciting! Of course, we in Florida know that DKG is in most capable hands. Our heartfelt congratulations are extended to Beverly as she takes the "helm". (You can read Beverly's acceptance speech on line by going to www.dkg.org)

Embracing Our Vision ~ Designing Our Future

Through your efforts, great strides were made in fulfilling our goals in 2011 - 2012. Many of you are already activating plans to do more during 2012 - 2013. Have you completed your chapter Strategic Action Plan? Have you considered presenting a session at a district, state, regional or international meeting? Will you sponsor at least one member this year? (Dr. Helms and I are asking **each of you** to find at least **one person** to become a member of this prestigious organization.) Will you apply for or encourage other members to apply for scholarships? (Two Florida members received \$10,000 this past year, one received an additional \$2,500 and several received \$1,000 or more.) Will you share all of the benefits of being a member with prospective members? You can make a difference through your participation.

We must continue our search for those accomplished educators whom we can initiate and encourage to assist in making strategic changes in our Society. We now have generations with dramatically different needs, values and expectations. These women have varied backgrounds and a wealth of information which they can share with us. Technology is here to stay and with the demographic shift, political policies are important. Let's initiate members who are willing to become involved in putting Mu State on the cutting edge with current topics.



Carrie at Presidents' Banquet,
DKG International, New York City
Photo courtesy of Photographs
by Jim, Floresville, TX

So, how do we make things better in Mu State?... by every member becoming involved in some capacity. What role will you play in the future of Mu State?

PLAN NOW

Mu State Convention
Orlando, Florida
April 19-21, 2013

Southeast Regional Conference
Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center
Kissimmee, Florida
July 9 - 13, 2013

Mu State Fall Meeting
September 20 - 21, 2013

DKG International Convention
July 28 - August 1, 2014
Indianapolis, Indiana

Could You Be The Next Mu State Treasurer?

The Mu State Personnel Committee is seeking a new State Treasurer. Myra Ponder, who has faithfully served as treasurer since 2003, is retiring on August 31, 2013. She will continue as an active member of DKG and Mu State, and she will enjoy a little more personal time.

Deadline for submission of applications is February 1, 2013. Please see the Mu State Website to download an application packet which includes the specifics on qualifications, duties, term of office, compensation and application procedures. Copies of the packet are also being sent by email to Chapter Presidents and other interested individuals. Please share this information with members who are potential candidates.

For additional information, you may also contact Ruth Pridgen, Chair, Mu State Personnel Committee by calling 904-945-1314 or by email at repridgen@aol.com

From the Desk of



Judith Mix
Mu State
Executive
Secretary

Phone calls have been answered, as well as computer requests. Members have needed information that I was able to research for them. Chapter presidents have been most cooperative in updating the emails of members for DKG International. I will be continuing to contact them to keep the email addresses current.

Materials were prepared for the training of the district directors, and the time we spent together was very productive. The Fall Workshop had much planning and many materials to be collected and organized. As your Executive Secretary, I am always willing to provide you with help.

Just contact me at
Mixjutom@embarqmail.com
Judith

New Mu State Editor & Parliamentarian

The Mu State Executive Board welcomes Bonnie Kelley as the Mu State Editor of the Florida Rays. Born in Pittsburgh, PA, she graduated from Ohio State University with a double major in English and Reading, and Kent State with a Masters in Library and Information Science. In Ohio, Bonnie taught middle school English and Reading for seven years. For 12 years, she was a school library media specialist in Hillsborough County's LaVoy Exceptional Center. For the past 15 years, she has been the Supervisor of Library Media/Technology for 122 media centers in Pinellas County Schools. As the Kindle Project Manager, Bonnie coordinated the first one-on-one ebook reader initiative using digital textbooks.



Bonnie served as President of Beta Omega Chapter and President of the Florida Association of Supervisors of Media. For the Florida Association for Media in Education, she was on the Board of Directors and Chair of the Jim Harbin Student Media Festival. Bonnie is the Supervisor Representative on the Board of Directors for the American Association of School Librarians.



We are delighted to welcome Fay Murphy as our Mu State Parliamentarian. She is also currently serving as Kappa Chapter President, District III. We are fortunate to have Fay accept this new role as she is very much in demand by other organizations for a number of roles. Fay is a certified parliamentarian and member of the National Association of Parliamentarians. She serves as the state parliamentarian for a State Political Organization as well as a local political organization.

She is on the State Executive Board of Florida Retired Educators Association and is the FREA State Director for all Florida counties. Fay is the Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Manatee Players and a choir member at her church. Fay holds a degree in Music Education and a Masters in Administration and Supervision. She has taught all levels including music educators, and she was at Oneco Elementary in Manatee County for 15 years. Welcome aboard, Fay and Bonnie!

Assess Your World Fellowship Knowledge

Deborah Thomas



fund, not from dues.

5. Contributions to the World Fellowship fund may be made by using Form 43 with the on-line contribution form. Both can be accessed at www.dkg.org under the Forms pull down menu and in the Contributions folder.
6. No. According to the [2010 International Constitution](#), these fellowships are granted to non-member women who are not citizens or permanent residents of the United States or Canada.
7. Visit the International World Fellowship Committee on the Society Web side and view the brochure of World Fellowship recipients and extensions at www.dkg.org.

Nominations for 2013 - 2015 Officers

Pat Ekstein
2012 - 2014 Nominations Chairman
PatEckstein@yahoo.com
407-947-0824

It is time to be thinking of candidates for the 2013 - 2015 Mu State Officers. Look for an application under Mu State Forms on the website at www.dkgmus-stateflorida.weebly.com

You may submit an application for a candidate for the following offices:

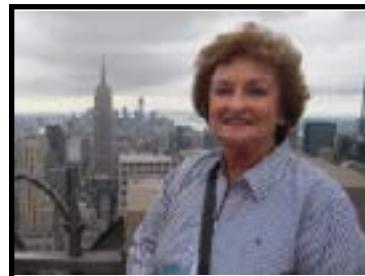
President
First Vice-President
Second Vice President
Recording Secretary
Corresponding Secretary

All districts need to be sending in applications. Don't wait. All forms must be postmarked by December 1, 2012. All needed information is on the application.

Floridians Enjoy NYC at International Convention



Gerry Hacker entertains us at the Presidents' Banquet in New York City with a musical interlude.



Fern Cleary enjoys the view from the observation deck of the Top of the Rock at Rockefeller Center.



Sandra Smith and **Ann Scheib** enjoy appetizers at a Mu State reception held in Beverly's honor

28th Jesslyn McBride Leadership Growth Seminar 2012



Seated (l to r): Front Row - Maria Viamonte, Missy Jones, Gale Garter, Michelle Hardy, Elizabeth Youngs, Elizabeth Bell and Pat Litterick. Second Row - Judith Mix, Ann S. Lumsden, Rose Ann Verheyen, Beverly Helms, Carrie Frye, Angie Williams, Stephany Eley, Merle Jones, Ann Ottaviano and Carleen Spano. Third Row - DeAnn Jones, Julie Whiteley-Wood, Beth Dewey, Susan Siemer, Lynn Mitchell, Janet Tolson, Ann Tikka, Jerry Craft, Andrey Bolbaum, Cindy Huggins, and Anita Harrell. Fourth Row: Jan T. Stevens, Janet Mallett, Meghan Starling, Celeste Stewart, Katherine Olipra, Kristie Joens, Terry Parker, Ruth Casias and Amanda Adams.

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International 2013 Mu State Convention

Call For Workshops

It is not too early to begin thinking about a topic for the 2013 Mu State Convention. The topics for the 2012 Fall Workshop were prudent and served our attendees well. You, too, can contribute to our vision and help design our future in DKG. Present a workshop at the State Convention on April 19, 2013. Start thinking about a topic for your session at the 2013 Mu State Convention. We wish to continue to inform, inspire and engage our members with the presentation of excellent workshops.

Think about our theme, "Embracing our Vision - Designing Our Future." Also, consider International President Dr. Beverly Helms' theme, "Sharing Our Vision - Strengthening Our Society." You are unlimited in the topics you can present in the areas of academia, technology, health updates, hands-on activities or global issues. Don't forget the "fun" topics. We need laughter! We all have an area in which we excel. What can you share with our DKG members to advance our Society?

Mu State is blessed with talented ladies who are willing to share their expertise on varied topics. You do not need to wait to let me know you are interested. Contact me by email at dwmsj@att.net or phone at 850-638-1280 or mail at Merle S. Jones, 1973 Cane Mill Road, Chipley, Florida, 32428.

"Embracing Our Vision - Designing Our Future"



Merle Jones
First Vice
President

Leadership Bequests, Contributions & Donations

Photo courtesy of
Photography by Jim
Floresville, TX



The following contributions have been made to the Mu State Leadership Growth Fund during and since the 2012 Leadership Seminar:

Bequests

Jesslyn L. McBride

Ann Tikka - in memory of Marvel Myers
Janet Tolson

Rose Ann Verheyen - in honor of Beverly Helms as International President

Julie Whitley-Wood

Angie Williams - in honor of 2012 class
Elizabeth Youngs

Contributors

Amanda Adams

Elizabeth Bell

Gale Carter - in memory of Jesslyn McBride

Ruth Casias

Jerry Craft

Maria Elmarente

Carrie Frye - in honor of Barbara VanDiepen

Carrie Frye - in honor of Beverly Helms

Michelle Hardy

Beverly Helms - in honor of Leadership Class of 2012

Kristie Joens - in honor of Sheila Knoche

DeAnn Jones

Pat Litterick - in honor of 2012 Class

Missy Jones - in honor of Carrie Frye

Ann Lumsden - in honor of Angie Williams & 2012 Seminar

Ann Lumsden - in honor of Beverly Helms, Carrie Frye & Merle Jones

Janet Mallett

Lynn Mitchell

Katherine Olipra

Terry Parker - in honor of Pat Litterick

Meghan Starling - in honor of Brenda Johnson

Jan Stevens

Celeste Stewart - in honor of Brenda Johnson

Ann Tikka - in memory of Marvel Myers
Janet Tolson

Rose Ann Verheyen - in honor of Beverly Helms as International President

Julie Whitley-Wood

Angie Williams - in honor of 2012 class
Elizabeth Youngs

Donors

Audry Blobaum - in honor of Margaret VonUnruh & Debra Gordon

Beth Dewey

Carrie Frye - in memory of Jess McBride

Anita Harell - in honor of 2012 Leadership Presenters

Cynthia Huggins - in honor of Carolyn Mathews

Merle Jones - in memory of Jess McBride

Merle Jones - in memory of Marion Bullock

Pat Litterick

Susan Siemer - in memory of Joanne Cocchiarella

Carleen Spano - in memory of Renee Sublette Garner

Barbara VanDiepen - in honor of our new International President, Beverly Helms

Contributions may be sent to **Myra Ponder, Mu State Treasurer** at 253 Prado Street, Apalachicola, FL, 32320.

Strategic Action Planning Committee

Barbara Van Diepen, Chair



Do you want your voice heard in Mu State? Do you have specific ideas about the direction you would like the State to travel to achieve the mission and purposes of the Society?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then the Strategic Action Planning (SAP) Committee wants your input as we seek any revisions to the Mu State Strategic Action Plan. You and your chapter members are essential to the success of the strategic planning process.

Immediate Past International President, Dr. Jensi Souders, said it well when she stated, "All members, officers, committees of the society may contribute ideas for inclusion in the Plan. The Plan belongs to all of us. The Strategic Action Plan will be a model for growth and success for all state organizations and chapters. The SAP continues to guide us in the road to becoming...Key Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide."

The Committee is available to answer questions and provide guidance to chapters as they begin, complete and/or revise their individual chapter plans.

To read the Mu State Strategic Action Plan, go to the Mu State website. To contribute activities to the plan, contact Barbara Van Diepen at vandiepen6@bellsouth.

Members/Chapters Designing Their Future



Brenda Knight, 1st Vice President; Cindie Fischer, Treasurer; Kristie Joens, Corresponding Secretary; Jan Beckley, President; Susan Head, 2nd Vice President and Lucretia Gilmore, Recording Secretary.

Alpha Gamma Chapter was thrilled to celebrate four members as 2012 Teachers of the Year. **Brenda Knight** teaches English at Hardee Junior High, **Tamara Hendry** teaches Kindergarten at Zolfo Springs Elementary, **Dr. Sheryl Mosley** is a Reading Coach at Hilltop Elementary, and **Kim Davis** is a Guidance Counselor at Bowling Green Elementary School. Brenda serves as the chapter's First Vice President. Dedication to teaching is thriving in the Heartland of Florida, and Alpha Gamma is honored to have these ladies as members!

Beta Alpha Chapter recently initiated three new members at the Jacaranda Country Club during their Joint Initiation Ceremony with four other Broward County DKG chapters. A warm welcome is extended to Carrie Cerrato, Dr. Vicki Owles and Mary Ann Rarick!

Beta Chi Chapter members, Mu State President **Carrie Frye** and District IV Director **Jan Stevens** had a DKG display at a local Office Depot "Back to School" event. Several teachers who are prospective members responded for more information, and two attended Beta Chi's last meeting. In addition, Beta Chi Chapter President **Crill Head** organized a chapter sponsored reception held at the district office for teachers

new to the district. This is the second year that **Beta Chi** members have participated in this event.

Beta Omega chapter in Pinellas County proudly announces the appointment of **Kim Short** as the principal of Pinellas Park Elementary. Also, two new members were initiated at their first chapter meeting in Seminole- **Elizabeth Hamilton** and **Kathleen Capabianco**.

Beta Upsilon in Sarasota held its first meeting on August 25 attended by its largest gathering of twenty-three members. Chapter President **Cathy Hollar** reports some great discussion as they worked on formulating their Strategic Action Plan which was passed later. The group's consensus was to use e-vites for every event, so members can respond with just a click and see who else is attending. They also voted to extend membership invitations to six outstanding teachers.

Eta Chapter celebrated its 71st birthday this year with members from Escambia, Okaloosa and Walton counties. They're proud of their heritage and plan some celebrations of remembrance for past members, as well as projects to enlist new members during this biennium. Chapter President **Sharon Richardson** reports

membership increased this year with six new members, and two former members were reinstated.

Our September meeting served as a planning meeting and feature an historical fashion show, including teacher attire. Eta member and author, **Rosemary Pendery** from DeFuniak Springs, has written a devotional book entitled *Daily Lifts for Teachers* dedicated to the memory of deceased Eta

member **Dr. Mabel Jean Morrison**. Proceeds from the sale of this book will fund a scholarship in Morrison's name.

Mu Chapter members were looking for a purposeful project to immerse themselves in their community. In 2008, their local shelter for abused women, CASA, built its new residence in Inverness. It was a freshly painted building, but something integral was missing- a library. The members of Mu Chapter got busy with a yard sale and silent auction, and a new house library was born. Members **Lynn Mitchell** and **Bonnie Rybak**, local school media specialists, partnered with a local bookstores to develop the collection of over 100 books



Mu Chapter President **Bonnie Ignacio**, CASA Executive Director Diana Finnegan, member **Fay Kearse** and First Vice President **Bonnie Rybak**.

including dictionaries, a Bible, many children's books and some women-oriented self-help books. The next year they concentrated on expendables, such as coloring books, crossword puzzles and workbooks. Last year a subscription to a popular children's magazine was added, and chapter members continue their commitment to literacy by keeping this shelter's collection current. The yard sale is an annual event and raising money for the CASA shelter home library is its priority!

Dr. Elsie Gross
Board of Trustees

Educational Foundation
DKG International



Educational Foundation

The Board of Trustees of the Educational Foundation has a new chair - our own **Dr. Elsie Gross**. She was elected at the International Convention in New York City this summer. Our new International President, Dr. Beverly Helms, will serve on the Board as well. Prior to the International Convention, the Educational Foundation presented the Seminar for Purposeful Living in Arlington, Virginia. Twelve of the 192 participants were from Florida including our Mu State President, **Carrie Frye**. Participants had the opportunity to tour our nation's capital. It was truly a well-organized and rewarding experience.

During the past biennium, the Educational Foundation has given 112 educators a total of \$114,251 in Cornet Professional Development Awards. This includes our four latest recipients:

Lisa Burke	Cocoa	Gamma Kappa	9/2011
Jan Graham	Tallahassee	Iota	9/2011
Janet Whalen	Merritt Island	Gamma Kappa	9/2011
Melissa LaPoint	Seminole	Alpha Chi	5/2012

These awards have helped finance their attendance at conferences and seminars around the country. Since 2011, the Foundation has also funded 116 projects in 18 countries for a total of \$252,755. Professional Development and Project Awards are an important way that the foundation can further its goal of supporting and encouraging intercultural understanding and educational excellence. If you, or an educator that you know, could use some financial assistance with travel to professional meetings or support for a project to help students, the Educational Foundation may be able to help. All applications are online at www.dkgef.org

In order to continue assisting educators, the Foundation can use your help. Individuals and chapters are urged to make contributions to the Foundation in the form of Make-A-Miracle pledges of \$100 a year for five years. Contributions of other amounts are gratefully accepted as well. This is one way that each of us can make a positive and meaningful impact on the lives of children today.



Seminar in Purposeful Living

Presented at the Mu State Workshop:
September 15, 2012 by Debra Graff

The 2012 Seminar for Purposeful Living was titled "A Capital Experience." Our hotel was situated in Crystal City, Virginia, on the outskirts of Washington, DC. The seminar attendees came from all over the world, and we enjoyed guided tours of the Capitol Building, National Cathedral and Arlington National Cemetery. One evening was spent on a moonlight tour of the historical monuments where a light drizzle of rain could not dampen the spirits of our group. Our time at the seminar was not totally scheduled. Opportunities were available for tours to Mount Vernon, Holocaust Museum and Ford's Theater. Some chose individual tours of museums, exhibits and public buildings sprinkled throughout the capital.



I watched presentations of international projects, and I listened to educators who had received grants through the Educational Foundation. I thought about teachers who wanted to attend conferences or work on National Board Certification, but they could not afford it. I thought about the need for intercultural understanding and projects that benefit children and education. The seminar allowed me to focus on the mission of the Educational Foundation and its commitment to support, encourage and assist with the improvement of education. DKG Educational Foundation is our opportunity to impact education worldwide.

Reflections of DKG International New York City, July 2012

Many photos from the DKG International Convention, as well as other DKG events, can be seen on the Mu State website. Check for photos of all Mu State activities. The information is changed frequently and is up-to-date.



Photo courtesy of Photographs by Jim, Floresville, TX

Seven Floridians Demonstrated Leadership as Presenters

Seven members of the Florida delegation demonstrated leadership by presenting breakout sessions over the three days that they are offered. Organized by their breakout session strands, you will find below a brief description of each. Mu State is extremely proud of their application, acceptance and delivery of information at the 2012 International Convention in New York City this summer.



Breakout Session Strand: DKG and the Future

On Wednesday, July 25, **Dr. Beverly Helms** from Bonifay presented ***As the SAP Rises - Strategic Action Planning for SE State Organizations***. State organization representatives met to review progress, shared individual state organization plans and discussed methods and strategies that are working. Participants identified future steps to support the development of SAPs for chapters. Participation was limited to identified Southeast state organization representatives.

Breakout Session Strand: Cultural and Personal Enrichment

On Thursday, July 26, **Lynn G. Kruse** from Florida presented with Patricia Gross from New York a breakout session entitled ***Finding the Purpose of Your Life: Personal Fulfillment through Goal Setting***. They shared how to attain personal satisfaction and professional success through the use of Jack Canfield's "The Success Principles." Both presenters were trained personally through his Trainer Program.



On the morning of Friday, July 26, **Ruth E. Pridgen** from Jacksonville (pictured on the left during her concurrent session) presented ***Turn Your Personal Dream into Reality by Design***. Attendees discovered how to turn their dreams, whatever they might be, into reality through specific design steps. They also learned how to develop the motivation to take that first step. She mesmerized a full house of attendees.

At the same time, **Sally Finley** from Florida presented ***Paper Crafting for Fun and Profit***. A variety of paper crafts were featured that could be used for chapter program covers and favors. Participants made a paper basket using scrapbooking paper, cardstock and ribbons. In the photo on the right, **Terry Stanilonis** proudly displays her creation accompanied by Sally (wearing glasses). This hands-on make and take was a huge hit!



Breakout Session Strand: Professional Practices



Also on Thursday, **Tammy DiFruscio** and **Katrina McMenamy** (left to right in photo) both from Tau Chapter in Florida shared their expertise in a breakout session entitled ***Heightening Student Achievement Through Music***. Music increases student achievement, so they shared practical classroom applications. Materials were applicable for novice and veteran educators, as well as parents and administrators. Participants experienced exciting hands-on musical activities that everyone can implement.

Also on Friday, **Tess Creel** from Florida presented ***Getting Girls Interested in Math***. Participants found out why girls lose interest in mathematics, and they gained ideas that can make mathematics attractive and interesting to girls.



Psi State Georgia Leadership Institute Attended by Florida Leaders

LeAnn Pollard, Chair
Mu State Communications/Publicity

Pictured with Dr. Barbara Day
former DKG International President

Psi State Georgia's Drive-In Leadership Institute held in Macon, Georgia, on Saturday, August 18, was attended by over fifty of Georgia's Delta Kappa Gamma members. Also in attendance were eight Florida members and five from Alabama! Mu State was well represented by an entire table of DKG leaders from around the state of Florida including two past president- Dr. Ann Lumsden from Tallahassee and Judith Mix from Okechobee. Also in attendance from Florida were Merle Jones, Gerry Hacker, Roxanne Berger, Clancy O'Donnell, Seleta Stacy and LeAnn Pollard. These members traveled all the way to Macon at the invitation of Psi State President Peggy McCall and Southeast Regional Director Dr. Hanna Fowler to hear the featured speaker, Dr. Barbara Day who was DKG International President, 2006 - 2008. Dr. Day's topics for the day's event included ***Leading with Wisdom & Passion: What are the characteristics and Authentic Happiness: Do you have it? Do you want it?***

Some highlights from Dr. Day's speech on ***Leading with Wisdom & Passion*** included book reviews of **Dignity** written by Donna Hicks, Ph.D. and recent winner of the DKG Educator's Book Award and a review of **Leading with Honor** by Lee Ellis, a former Vietnam POW. Dr. Day shared that the hallmark of a wise and passionate leader is the willingness to admit when a mistake has been made and making it right. Treating others with dignity, giving them the benefit of the doubt and assuming most people are acting with integrity are essential to this style of leadership. In her afternoon session, she shared tips and resources for finding authentic happiness in life. Some of the themes which emerged from the discussion included the value of wellness, friendships, quality sleep, lifelong learning and resiliency. As with all Delta Kappa Gamma gatherings, a spirit of genuine spiritual fellowship and a focus on personal and professional growth were enjoyed.

Wanted!

Mu State Hostesses for Southeast Regional Conference

Wednesday, July 10 - Saturday, July 13, 2013

Duties of Hostesses

- * Greeting conference attendees throughout the day at hotel to give directions, answer questions or locate someone.
- * Being pages for General Meetings.
- * Manning of Hospitality Room around the clock.
- * Distributing the daily newspaper at the door of General Meeting areas.
- * Being greeters for entertainers and escorting them to entertainment areas.
- * Being greeters for special guests and entertainers as they arrive at the hotel.

General Information

- * Agree to work 2 - 3 hour shifts with some beginning at 7:30 a.m.
- * Wear hostess name tags and identifying scarves and/or corsages.
- * Report to Edie Smith, Hostess Chair, before going on duty.

Name: _____ Chapter: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Edie Smith
7150 Captain Kidd Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34231
941-924-5423
elunicorn@juno.com



Available Membership Resources

Carol Ann Casey, Chair
Mu State Membership

caseyca@bellsouth.net
954-437-4468

Now that summer is over, it is time that the International and local chapter officers and committees officially get to work. Local chapter presidents and membership chairs are taking a good look at their chapters and trying to assess what they need to do to revitalize, retain, reinstate and attract new members. It can be rather scary. You need to take a deep breath and know that you do not have to reinvent the wheel. There are so many materials at your fingertips to help you.

Here are just a few of them.

1. **Guidelines for Chapter Membership Committee Chairs** is loaded with lots of information and answers to your membership questions.
2. **Go-To-Guide for Chapter Members** contains lots of sample forms, letters, and other goodies to help you.
3. **New Ceremonies Book** has contemporary and traditional versions of ceremonies and expanded ideas for your ceremonies.
4. **Constitution and International Standing Rules**
5. **Mu State By-Laws, Standing Rules, Procedures and Courtesies**
6. **Pride in the Big Picture: An Orientation Guide**
7. **Sustaining Pride in the Big Picture: A Reorientation Guide**

Don't forget to check our the **DKG International website**. Under Committees, click on Membership and check out all of the materials you can download.

If you attended one of the membership workshop sessions at your District Meeting, you received a packet of great materials to use.

Another big help are the presidents and membership chairs that preceded you. They are great resources. Take advantage of them.

Also, look at the chapters in your area that are strong and vital. Make connections with them to get ideas. You might even want to have some combined meetings. If you are one of those successful chapters, you need to reach out to help some of the chapters that are struggling.

International President **Dr. Beverly Helms** has given Mu State a challenge for her biennium. She would like to see every chapter initiate at least three new members each year of her biennium. Let's show her that we can step up to the plate and meet that challenge.

Have a successful year! Let us continue to "Share Our Vision - Strengthen Our Society." If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

2012 Star of Southeast Mu State (Florida)



Florida's Star has exemplified true commitment and dedication to Delta Kappa Gamma for thirty-two years. She is the "heart" of her chapter serving in many capacities, including president for three and a half bienniums and participating in all Coordinating Council Meetings where she encourages friendships with new members. She has spent innumerable hours working on community-based chapter projects and shares her lovely home for any DKG function, including hosting state officers.

Our "Star" represents her chapter at all state meetings and for twelve years has attended all Regionals and Internationals. This lady delights in mentoring members as future leaders in our organization; however, she is content to remain in the background ever present and always eager to lend a hand.

Her service and visibility in her community are commendable. She organized her County Youth Speech Competition, is a ten year Elks member and is active in her church.

Her dedication is DKG and her constant smile are contagious. This lady who is the example of the "pulse of our Society" - Virginia "Ginny" Hunter.

From the Educational Excellence Committee
Sandra Smith, Chair

Educational Excellence promotes the Schools for Africa, supports early career educators and encourages programs and activities that further educational excellence. What are the educational needs in your area? Could it be increasing members' personal and professional pride, increasing members' global awareness or impacting educational law and policy? What can you do to meet those needs?

Stephany Eley, President of Beta Sigma Chapter, has written some suggestions about how to impact educational law and policy. Look for other tips about how to make an impact on other educational excellence needs in upcoming **Florida Rays** issues. Also, do not miss the article about the Betty Thornton Arts & Crafts Exhibit in this issue.

**Are You Frustrated that the Florida Legislature is Controlling Your Life?
You Can Do Something About It.**

Stephany Eley, Beta Sigma President

Among my teacher friends, I am unusual because I have become active in the political process. I don't know if most educators believe they are too busy to get involved, or if deep down they don't believe they can make a difference. Whatever the reason, most teachers sit on the sidelines and watch our legislators enact laws that dramatically impact our lives. Friends, this has to change!

Throughout the state, every current teacher I have spoken with said that last year was the most difficult year of teaching that they have ever encountered. Why? It is because of the new teacher appraisal system mandated by our state legislators. If a single act of our legislative body, Senate Bill 736, can so detrimentally affect our profession, then we cannot afford to stand idle. You must get involved in the political process.

The task seems overwhelming, but if each of us does a small part, it will create a tremendous impact.

1. Call each member of your legislative delegation and ask how they voted on Senate Bill 736.
2. For members who voted against the bill, send them an email or handwritten note thanking them for their support of education.
3. For legislators who voted in favor of the bill, get a group of teachers together and make an appointment to talk with them about education.
 - a. Let them know you supported them in the past, but you will not continue to support them because of their vote on this issue.
 - b. Let them know how Senate Bill 736 has negatively impacted your students, your class and your school.
 - c. Explain that fewer college students are considering education as a career, so if the climate in Florida doesn't change we will face a massive teacher shortage in the next five years.
4. Research the opponents of your state representatives who voted in favor of Senate Bill 736. Gather a group of teachers and make an appointment with the candidates to discuss their education platform. Tell the candidates you will work to help pro-education candidates win, and then follow through on the promise.
 - a. Offer to call your friends and neighbors asking them to vote for the pro-education candidate.
 - b. Offer to walk a precinct handing out literature for the pro-education candidate.
 - c. Offer to organize or participate in a sign waving campaign at a major intersection.

Commit an hour to meet with your state representative and senator. If your legislators received requests for appointments from over fifty educators in their district over the upcoming months, think of the impact. Our founders fought for better conditions for teachers, and we are the blessed recipients. I am asking you to do the same for the future teachers who are currently students in our classrooms. Remember our call to action:

"Onward! tis our sisters need us,
Courage, Faith and Honor lead us!
Wrongs in truth and justice, heed us,
Firmly shall we stand!"

**Betty Thornton
Arts & Crafts Exhibit 2013
*Embracing Our Vision ~ Designing Our Future***

At the upcoming Mu State Spring Convention held April 19 - 21, 2013, in Orlando, the Educational Excellence Committee will host the Betty Thornton Arts & Crafts Exhibit. This event is named in honor of a long time supporter of the arts and is aligned with the purposes of the committee to honor and recognize the talents and skills that our members possess. This event will give them a forum to display their works. Please submit the application to reserve your space in this great event. Share your talents with your DKG fellow members! All members will receive a certificate of participation. The application below outlines the criteria and if in doubt email Joann Higgins at gammanuhiggins@yahoo.com

Purpose

To celebrate members who participate in the arts.

Registration Form

Inviting all members who desire to display their artistic talents.

Please print or type one name per form.

Name: _____ Chapter: _____ District: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

**I plan to enter the following item(s) in the Arts & Crafts Exhibit:
(Check all that apply)**

Painting(s): oil watercolor photography other (specify) _____

**Needlework(s): knitting crochet crewel
 embroidery sewing other (specify) _____**

Literary work(s): poetry short story novel other (specify) _____

**Miscellaneous arts & crafts: fused glass
 other (specify) _____**

**Musical arrangements (specify): _____
Recordings may be used to demonstrate musical expertise.**

Send completed form by the **deadline of March 1, 2013** to
Joann Higgins, 1386 Caleigh St., North Port, FL, 34288.

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
 Mu State Organization
Florida Rays
 Bonnie S. Kelley, Editor
 KelleyBpcsb@gmail.com

**Periodical Postage
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The DKG Society International
 PO Box 1589
 Austin, Texas 78767-1589

Florida Rays

Members are encouraged to call or send information to be used in the **Florida Rays**.

Deadlines

December 1.....Winter
February 1.....Spring
May 1.....Summer
September 1.....Fall

Find the Mu State website on the International website. Go to www.dkg.org, click on **Society Websites**, click on the U.S. Flag, and then click on Florida. Click at the top of the map of Florida for the state website and on the chapter name for a chapter website. You can also visit the new website at www.dkgmustateflorida.weebly.com

Folding the **Florida Rays** reduces the cost for mailing.
 Thanks for your patience and understanding.

New Mu State website:
www.dkgmustateflorida.weebly.com

Mu State Headquarters
 245 North Clara Avenue
 DeLand, FL 32720
 Phone: 386-748-8157

International website:
www.dkg.org



Upcoming Meeting Dates

April 19 - 21, 2013
Mu State Convention
 Orlando, Florida

July 9 - 12, 2013
Southeast Regional Conference
 Gaylord Palms Resort
 Kissimmee, Florida

Criteria for Mu State Communications Award

Start now so that your chapter can be recognized by the Mu State Communications Committee at the 2013 Mu State Convention. There are different levels of recognition depending on the number of points accumulated. You do not have to achieve all criteria to be recognized. Earn the maximum number of points possible, then submit your file or documentation of communication efforts by **April 1, 2013**.

1. Chapter has a website and is linked to International. (25 points)
2. Chapter has a social media page with members participating. (10 points)
3. Chapter communicates with members at least 5 times annually. (15 points)
4. Maintains communications with members without computers, emails, etc. (10 points)
5. Information board displayed at district meeting or in community. (10 points)
6. Submits article to **Florida Rays**. (5 points)
7. Chapter submits news releases to local media. (10+ points)
8. Chapter represented at Fall Workshop/ district meeting/ and meets deadline for submission. (10 points)