



The Florida State Organization of DKG

# Florida Rays

Vol. 68 No. 3

Change is Healthy & Beautiful!

Winter 2022-23



## Will You Claim Your Seat at the DKGFL Training Table?

Terry Stanilonis, First-Vice President  
terrystanilonis@gmail.com

Engaging in physical training results in muscle growth and peak physical fitness. As a result, a woman's physical fitness depends on an intentional plan of action. Likewise, as members, we must be vigilant and aware of putting forth our best plan of action for developing personal and professional knowledge if we expect to claim our seat at the DKGFL training table. Unfortunately, the Florida State Organization suffered through a worldwide pandemic affecting our protocols and procedures leaving us with a partially filled table, especially in face-to-face training via the breakout sessions we institute at our state events. However, the DKG-FL table is slowly expanding. Therefore, we must affirm those members for actively seeking a seat at our state's training table at our September 2022 meeting.

Thanks to **Tess St. John** for sharing the laws fostering communication and claiming a seat at the training table. The topic "Digital Body Language" is instrumental for members to continuously hone their communication skills, affecting professional and personal growth. **Karol Gotte** carries DKG on her shoulder as she engages in activities and events outside the DKG realm. While enjoying a vacation cruise, Karol took part in a Trivial Pursuit activity. When her vacation ended, her idea to transfer the game to DKG provided our members with fun while brushing up on their knowledge of DKG. Karol has shown us how to incorporate fun at our training table; welcome!



"Let's Save the Earth" is a timely topic. Presenter **Susan Siemer**'s journey of giving up single-use plastic products helped members take a small quantity of DKG back home. So, as we adjust to saving the earth, think of DKG as your source of information. Kudos to Susan for presenting. Welcome to the training table. Presenter **Diane Revels** reminds us of our ability to overcome obstacles thrown our way. Diane's session, "Never Give Up on Yourself" reminds us of personal affirmations courtesy of DKG members; these affirmations consistently uplift and encourage members in need. Diane, we are honored to share the training table, especially after such a life-altering experience.



Introduced as a change to our breakout session offerings is the newly formed "Roundtable Discussion" facilitated by **Dr. Precious Symonette**. An open discussion addressing the difficulties within the current education climate was met with success, especially as the audience joined the ongoing conversation. The panel included **Sharon Joca, Lisa Allen, and Sharon Thomas**. In addition, panel guests were **Candace Martin, Southeast Regional Director, and Nancy Bentz, Second Vice-President of the Florida State Organization**. All participants, including audience members, took a chance at a new idea; for this reason alone, the training table welcomes Dr. Precious Symonette, the panel participants, and members of the audience. While our presenters touched on DKG topics, such as professional and personal growth, let us always remember that our members serving on state committees hold permanent places at our training table. (continued on page 2)

# 2021 - 2023 Florida State Officers

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Roxanne Berger  
roxanne.berger45@gmail.com

First Vice-President

Terry Stanilonis  
t1stan@bellsouth.net

Second Vice-President

Nancy Bentz  
nbteach@protonmail.com

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gammanuhiggins@yahoo.com

Corresponding Secretary

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Sharonwallen16@gmail.com

Parliamentarian

Stephanie "Sam"  
McCartney-King  
gammanuking@gmail.com

Immediate Past

State President  
Dr. Nancy Henning  
nanhendkg@yahoo.com

**Florida Rays**

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Florida State DKG Editor

Bonnie S. Kelley, Ed.S.  
240 Oakanoah Circle  
Brevard, NC 28712

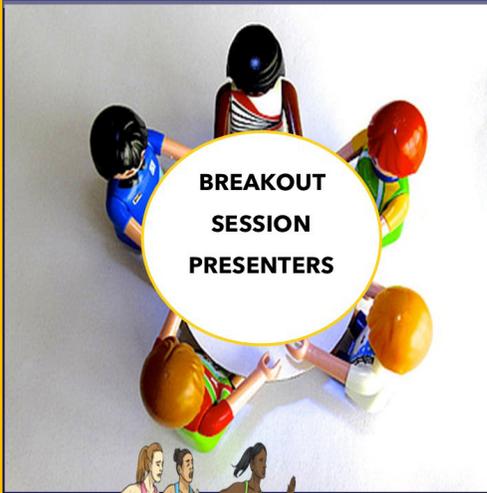
MuStateEditor@gmail.com

Disseminating crucial information for the membership and the organization's benefit is always celebrated. Special recognition to the following committees for their dedication to the DKG Florida organization: Membership and Expansion, Communication/Publicity, State Bylaws, and Legislative Committees.

We extend special recognition to the Florida DKG Educational Foundation (FLDKGEF). The Foundation continues to support our educators (members and non-members) with the monetary backing needed to offer students statewide educational excellence. Because of its efforts, the FLDKGEF has a permanent place at the training table, ensuring our table is sturdy and robust.

State leadership eagerly anticipates our Spring Convention scheduled for April 28-30, 2023. Personal and professional growth rates double in one's role as a presenter. So, members, flex your DKG muscles and workout an idea to present at the convention. First, lift your fingers to complete a breakout session proposal form, whetting your appetite for self-improvement as you nourish and help fellow members reach their own peak of personal and professional growth. Then, walk, jog, or run to claim a seat at the 2023 DKG-FL Spring Convention Training Table.

## JOIN THE DKG-FL TRAINING TABLE



Join our DKG-FL Training Team. **Workout** with the team as you **stretch** your imagination. Convention is a potpourri of endless possibilities. **WE NEED YOU** to **flex** those fingers and complete the online Breakout Session Proposal Form.



Access: <http://dkgflorida.weebly.com>  
 Online and Paper Format Available  
 For assistance contact Terry Stanilonis  
[terrystanilonis@gmail.com](mailto:terrystanilonis@gmail.com)

Step on it! Remember the deadline is...

March 20, 2023



## Florida DKG State President's Message

**Roxanne Berger, State President, 2021 - 2023**  
**Florida DKG State Organization**  
**Roxanne.berger45@gmail.com**

Happy New Year 2023!

This is our chance again to make changes, and we know that

**Change is Healthy and Beautiful.**

Our September 2022 Executive Board Meeting at Lake Mary Marriott was wonderful. DKG members totaling 183 registered and enjoyed seeing our members from around the state. We accomplished our business and had fun along the way. Congratulations to **Fern Cleary** who was presented the "Star of the Southeast" award for 2022.

Thank you to the attendees for filling out the evaluation form. We have made some changes for the 2023 State Convention according to suggestions made. Please make plans to attend our State Convention April 28 -30, 2023, at Orlando Marriott Lake Mary, and help us reach our goal of 225 attendees.

MAGIC NUMBER - 225

It has been an interesting year. First of all, I want to thank everyone who attended the September Executive Board meeting and donated to the Emergency Fund. Little did we know that a week or so later, 51 of our members were impacted by Hurricane Ian and given funds to assist. Then came Hurricane Nicole in November. A special "thank you" to **Beverly Stagg, Florida State Treasurer**, for getting checks out quickly to those members who suffered losses at their homes.

Congratulations to **Connie Kostyra, Beth Werner, and Susan Salesses** for having photographs and artwork selected to be displayed on the DKG Gallery of Fine Arts. These works will be displayed for 6 months, then archived for two years. I would encourage every member to go online to view these beautiful works.

Changes are coming as we prepare for our Florida State Convention in April 2023. Following are possible changes we are considering.

- Registrations are due earlier so we can prepare with fewer last-minute changes.
- There will be NO group Friday night dinner.
- The Executive Board meeting will be on Friday night.
- The General Meeting will be on Saturday morning. All members vote.
- Committees will meet on Friday afternoon/evening if the chairperson lets us know in advance.
- We will present and honor the Chapter Presidents by Districts at the Banquet on Saturday evening.

I have enjoyed attending chapter meetings from Tallahassee to Miami and many in between. If I have not visited your chapter, please let me know when your meetings are scheduled so I can attend. I have included a picture of **Ann Lumsden and Nancy Henning, Past State Presidents**, taken at Tallahassee's Big Bend joint meeting.

Many of our chapters throughout Florida are making a difference in their respective communities. Plan to assist your community with a meaningful activity. Also, remember to encourage a newer teacher with notes or volunteering in their classrooms. Use your extensive experience to encourage and assist others who desperately need some assistance. Whatever you can do, will be appreciated!



We need each one of you to "meet the block" at the hotel. Hope YOU will be one of our 225 attendees at the State Convention in April. We are planning a great meeting.

Florida DKG State Organization  
 Biennial Convention  
 Registration Form and **Automated Payment**  
 April 28 - 30, 2023  
 Orlando Marriott Lake Mary



Please print or type one name per form:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Check all that apply:**  Member  First State Meeting  
 Current Chapter President/Designee  Past State President  
 District Director  
 State Officer or Related Personnel \_\_\_\_\_  
 State Committee Chairman (Name of Committee) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Dietary Needs (list specifics) \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Deadline: Postmarked on or before April 10, 2023**

Member Registration	\$90.00	_____ (includes meeting costs, Fri. Reception and Sat. Brunch)	
Guest Friday Night Reception	\$30.00	_____	
Guest Saturday Brunch	\$35.00	_____	
Name: _____			Send to: Carolyn McGowan
Member Saturday Night Banquet	\$50.00	_____	230 Overlook Drive
Guest Name: _____	\$50.00	_____	Clermont, Florida, 34711-2428
Late Registration Fee	\$50.00	_____	mmcdm1@aol.com
Total Payment	\$	_____	352-223-7773

**No refunds after April 18, 2023**

Check online for Convention Schedule/Agenda: [www.dkgflorida.weebly.com](http://www.dkgflorida.weebly.com)

**Please note:** Unless you indicate below, your attendance at this meeting gives permission for your photo and contact information (if needed) to be used in the *Florida Rays* or any DKG publication.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I do not want my photo or contact information used in the *Florida Rays* or any DKG publication.

**Automated Payment**

1. To send registration monies electronically, you must have access to Zelle with your bank account.
2. Send total registration fees to [drevelsdkg@gmail.com](mailto:drevelsdkg@gmail.com) using Zelle.
3. Send your registration form to Carolyn McGowan as per instructions above.

**Hotel Reservation Information**

1. See second attachment



**Florida DKG Biennial Convention  
Lake Mary Marriott  
April 28 – 30, 2023**

**Hotel Reservations**



**Orlando Marriott Lake Mary  
1501 International Parkway  
Lake Mary, Florida, 32746  
Phone: 407-995-1100 or 800-380-7724**

**Group Reservation: Ask for 2023 FL DKG Convention  
April 28 – 30, 2023**

**Rates: Single - \$123.00 Double - \$123.00 Triple - \$123.00 Quad - \$123.00**

**(Room rates do NOT include taxes and fees.)**

Each reservation must be guaranteed with a first night's deposit or major credit card.

Please specify the group name (above) to receive your group rate.

**Reservation cut-off date: April 5, 2023**

Any reservation after this date is subject to availability.

**Refund Policy:** Cancellations, no shows, or early departures without a 48-hour advance notice will result in forfeiture of one night's deposit or a charge of one night's stay to a credit card.

**Directions from Turnpike:**

Take I-4 Exit (Exit 259 Orlando/ Tampa)  
Merge onto I-4 East toward downtown Orlando  
Take Exit 101A (CR-46A, Sanford/Heathrow)  
Turn left onto H.E. Thomas Jr. Parkway CR-46W  
At 2<sup>nd</sup> light turn left onto International Parkway  
Turn left at 2<sup>nd</sup> Driveway for Marriott

**Directions from West side of FL on I-4**

Take Toll Road 429 on west side of Disney Properties  
Stay on 429 toward Sanford/ Daytona until exit for International Parkway  
Once on the Parkway travel through 3 stop lights  
Turn left at 2<sup>nd</sup> driveway after 3<sup>rd</sup> light.

**Directions from I-95**

Take Exit 223 (Sanford/Mims) onto FL-46  
Travel west on FL-46 through Sanford to International Parkway  
Turn left onto International Parkway  
Take second left driveway into Marriott Property



## Florida State Organization Convention Schedule at a Glance

### Friday, April 28, 2023

3:00 - 9:00 PM	Registration	Grand Foyer
3:00 – 6:00 PM	Set-up for Displays	Grand Foyer
4:15 – 5:10 PM	Breakout Session I	
5:20 – 6:10 PM	Breakout Session II	
6:15 – 7:15 PM	Choir/Music Rehearsal	Ballrooms D - E
	Necrology Participants	Orchid III
	Nominations Committee	Ballroom F
	Bylaws Committee	Ballroom G
	Awards Committee	Ballroom H
	State Committees- unassigned	TBA
7:30 – 8:45 PM	<b>Executive Board Meeting</b>	Ballrooms D - E
9:00 – 9:45 PM	Reception Terrace	Grand Foyer

### Saturday, April 29, 2023

8:30 – 9:45 AM	<b>General Session</b>	Ballroom D – E
10:00 – 10:50 AM	Breakout Session III	
11:00 – 1:00 PM	Awards Brunch	Ballroom D – E
1:10 – 2:00 PM	Breakout Session IV	
	Rehearsals:	
2:15 – 2:45 PM	District Directors /Chapter Presidents	Ballroom D - E
2:45 – 3:15 PM	Officer Installation	Ballroom D - E
3:15 – 4:30. PM	Chorus/Music	Ballroom D – E
5:40 – 6:00 PM	Line Up for Presidents' Banquet (All Chapter Presidents)	Orchid Hallway
6:00 PM	<b>Presidents' Banquet</b>	Ballroom D - E

### Sunday, April 30, 2023

8:00 – 8:30 AM	Chorus/Music Rehearsal	Ballroom F - G
8:30 – 9:15 AM	Ceremony Rehearsal	Ballroom F - G
9:15 – 9:30 AM	Enter Silently for Ceremony	
9:30 - !0:30 AM	<b>Ceremony of Remembrance</b>	Ballroom F - G
10:45 AM	Planning Session for 2023-2025 Officers, District Directors, and Committee Chairs	Ballroom F – G

**Betty Thornton Arts & Crafts Exhibition  
Florida State Spring Convention, April 28 - 30, 2023**

**Dr. Jackie Greene, Chair  
jgreene@fgcu.edu**

The biennial celebration of the Betty Thornton Arts & Crafts Exhibition will take place at the Spring Convention held at the Lake Mary Marriott, April 28 - 30, 2023. This is the time for all participating members to display their gifts and talents in the areas of Art, Music, Drama, Writing, and Crafting categories including Needlework, Crocheting, Quilting, and Sculpting. The Educational Excellence Committee would like to give members enough time to SHARE this information with all applicants, so they will have plenty of time to PREPARE their exhibits, and REGISTER for this grand event using the form below. Chapters should encourage members to share their arts and crafts at a meeting, too! The registration form is to be mailed by April 1, 2023, to Dr. Jackie Greene, who coordinates this event.



Please remind applicants that IF there is a category that is not mentioned on the form to please fill in the appropriate category and complete the registration form found below. We want to make this an exciting and fun exhibition, so please consider attending and bringing your PASSION! Also, encourage other members of your chapter who may not have participated in the Arts & Crafts Exhibition in the past to bring their wonderful talents to display in the gallery at this convention. Additionally, if a member or members are musically talented, a live performance or a recorded performance would enhance the gallery and add another dimension to celebrate all talents at this event. The Educational Excellence Committee would like to promote Florida State members in celebrating their talents, accomplishments, and personal growth.

**REGISTRATION FORM: 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 and 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 and/or musical arrangements: \_\_\_\_\_ (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Recordings may be used to demonstrate musical expertise or give a live performance. We are encouraging all members who have musical talent to perform either live, or bring a taped recording (DVD) to be played during the Betty Thornton Arts & Crafts Exhibition.

**SEND COMPLETED FORM TO**

Dr. Jackie Greene, 5382 Kempson Lane, Port Charlotte, FL 33981 or email to [jgreene@fgcu.edu](mailto:jgreene@fgcu.edu)

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: April 1, 2023**

An acceptance email & directions will be sent upon receipt of this form.

### From the Personnel Committee



**Dr. Nancy Henning, Chair  
Florida DKG State Organization  
nanhendkg@yahoo.com**

Have you ever had an interest in serving Florida DKG as Treasurer, Executive Secretary, Webmaster or Editor?

If your curiosity is peaked, get in touch with Nancy Henning at nanhendkg@yahoo.com

We want to have full transparency for our four paid positions.

### 2022 Fall Executive Board Meeting State Meeting Registrar's Report



**Carolyn McGowan  
State Registrar  
mmcdm1@aol.com**

Total Registrations	187
Friday Night Dinners	113
Chapter Presidents	52
First Timers	21
Less than 6 Yrs. Membership	22
Past District Directors	28
Registered by VENMO	27

### Emergency Fund Available For Hurricane Victims



**Cheryl Shambaugh, Chair  
shambaugh@msn.com**

Just a few months ago we met in Lake Mary for our Fall Executive Board Meeting. We knew that there was a hurricane forming in the Gulf, but I don't think any of us realized the impending threat. As usual, we collected funds for our Emergency Fund. Florida members gave generously, and over \$1,700 was collected and added to Florida's state fund. Since then, we have witnessed the widespread devastation that a storm of this magnitude can inflict. Our hearts go out to all who were impacted-but especially to our sisters in Delta Kappa Gamma.

One way to show our love and care for each of them is through the Emergency Fund. If you were impacted by the storm and suffered damages to your home and property, please get in touch with your chapter president and fill out the Emergency Fund Request Form. Your chapter president must sign and send it electronically to **State President Roxanne Berger**. She will then sign and forward it to **State Treasurer Beverly Stagg**

and to DKG Headquarters. Those in need will receive a \$250 check from our state and a \$500 check from international. This form is the only documentation that is needed.



Family is so important in times of our greatest need. Remember that we love and care for our sisters and want to help in any way we can. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. Please don't hesitate to reach out and get the assistance that is available to help you during the difficult days ahead.



## What Has the Legislative Committee Been Up To?

### Dr. Vivian Posey, Chair Legislative Committee

This fall, members of the DKG state Legislative Committee have engaged in many activities in their Districts to improve education, inform their communities, and advocate for teachers and fellow DKG members with local and state legislators.

Here are some of the highlights from these activities. As you can see, the Legislative Committee members take their responsibility seriously and are helping their neighbors and fellow DKG members become informed voters and active advocates!

- **Vivian Posey (District III)** moderated a virtual panel event, Today's Students, Tomorrow's Voters: Preparing High School Students to Become Lifelong Voters, to inform parents, teachers, and community members about the revised (2021) Florida Civics and Government Standards and ways to improve the voting trends of young Americans in the 18-29 demographic; coordinated a School Board candidate forum, and conducted voter registration events in schools/colleges.
- **Ruth Paine (District II)** met with Senator Jennifer Bradley and Representative Sam Garrison to introduce them to the Imagination Library program in Clay County which so far has donated thousands of free books to children ages 0-5. In collaboration with the Clay Education Foundation, the goal of the Imagination Library is to improve early literacy through access to one free book mailed to the home per month to registered children in targeted areas of Clay County.
- **Carrie Frye (District IV)** served as a poll worker, met with local party members to share issues and discuss legislative positions, corresponded with American Association of University Women (AAUW) members to discuss this organization's legislative issues, and met with Florida Retired Educators Association (FREA) Board to discuss the current status of Florida educators' pensions and possible legislative actions related to pensions during the 2023 session.
- **Donna Heald (District I)** serves as President of the Leon Wakulla Retired Educators Association and participated in a candidate forum presented by LWREA. The forum featured candidates for Tallahassee mayor, city and county commissions, and Leon County School Board.
- **Maria Metge (District VI)** recruited poll watchers for the elections and worked with Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections office to make sure every registered voter who came to a polling place had the opportunity to vote. She also participated in and spoke at a rally to promote affordable housing in Charlotte County
- **Diana Brown (District II)** collected petition signatures, served as a phone bank organizer, worked on phone banking events, attended candidate forums, and sponsored a local fund-raiser.
- **Nancy Bentz (District V)** served as a campaign manager for a School Board candidate.
- **Deane Ugalde (District V)** authored a detailed bio and legislative background of every candidate for races in each of the House and Senate districts represented by DKG members in District V. She also listed the candidates and their stand on issues to help voters make informed choices when they vote. She sent this information to her chapter members before the primary and general elections.
- =
- **Beth Hess (District III)** highlighted one effective solution to the critical need for teachers in Florida by hosting visits from local and state elected representatives to the New Teacher Academy at River Ridge High School in Pasco County. While there, these leaders were able learn about the program and see the success of these high school students who are aspiring educators in Pasco County.





## Florida DKG Educational Foundation

**Ann Tikka, Board of Directors**  
**alphadeltaDKG@icloud.com**

The Florida DKG Educational Foundation (FLDKGEF) Board of Directors met on Friday, September 23, for their annual fall meeting in Lake Mary. Members present included Nancy Bentz (chair), Roxanne Berger (DKG Florida State Organization President 2025), Dr. Constance Besco (secretary), Carol Ann Casey (incoming chair), Debra Graff (webmaster), Dr. Elsie Gross, Dr. Beverly Helms (vice chair), Dr. Nancy Henning (Immediate Past DKG Florida State Organization President 2023), Connie Kostyra (treasurer), Vicki Simms, and Ann Tikka. Newly appointed directors joined the team: Geraldine DeFelix, Kathy Diesner, Yvonne McShay, Kathy Raiford, and Diane Revels.



After calling the meeting to order, reports were given by the Secretary, Treasurer, Bylaws Committee, Finance Committee, Grants and Awards Committee, Nominations Committee, and Public Relations Committee. New business was discussed including the motion to approve the designation of Director Emerita which allows one retiring director, if approved by the board, to be an advisor to the board of directors for a maximum of two years after reaching her term limits and rotation off the board. This position is advisory only and has no authority or official responsibility. Only one director would be serving as a director emerita at the same time and may not serve a consecutive term. Following discussion and approval of the first motion, Ann Tikka moved the designation of Dr. Elsie Gross as the first Director Emerita from 2022-2024. An amendment to the bylaws was added after unanimous approval. Congratulations, Elsie! The meeting adjourned with a celebration of years of service by Nancy Bentz and Dr. Elsie Gross and a welcome to our new directors.

Later that evening, the Board hosted the Annual Membership Meeting to give a brief update and hear from two Project Grant recipients, Beth Cavallaro (Morning Running Club) and Rebekah Richey (Sanford Enrichment Field Trip Opportunities). The next day, the Board of Directors presented a breakout session after the 2022 Fall Executive Board Meeting. It was titled "Putting \$\$\$ In Your Pocket" to help attendees learn how to access funds through the Florida DKG Educational Foundation.

From 2017 through 2022, the Florida DKG Educational Foundation has given a total of \$27,823.24 for 13 Professional Development Awards and 16 Educational Grants. Please consider applying for the FLDKGEF Professional Development Award that provides funding for educators to attend training that relates to the educator's professional aspirations or the FLDKGEF Educational Grant that supports classroom activities and projects designed by active or retired educators to be implemented in schools or communities. The updated applications for projects or professional development that occurs between April 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024, are available online at [www.fldkgef.org](http://www.fldkgef.org). Applications must be submitted by February 1, 2023. A tax-deductible donation can be made to the Foundation at the same website.



## “Make New Friends but Keep the Old; One is Silver and the Other Gold.”

### Dr. Ann Lumsden- 2005-2007 Florida DKG State Organization President



This article is written to provide a walk down memory lane for long-term members and provide recognition of the number of member-leaders who made each past biennium a success. We hope you enjoy them.

During the 2005-2007 biennium a summer retreat for officers was held; the “Order of the Orange Blossom” was introduced to pay tribute to past state organization presidents; the Southeast DKG Cookbook was created; a past state president, **Dr. Dorothea Heinrich**, passed, and **Dr. Peg Dunn Snow** was hired as the state webmaster.



Assisting Dr. Lumsden during the biennium were other state level leaders, **Barbara Van Diepen, Carolyn McGowan, Sandy Lyall, Ann Blossfield, Myra Ponder, Dr. Beverly Helms, Kris Sternberg, and Dr. Peg Dunn Snow**. District directors who served during the biennium were **Merle Jones** and **Dr. Nancy Henning**, District I; **Wynyard McDonald** and **Georgia Browning**, District II; **Gerry Hacker** and **Morita Hadlock**, District III; **Jan McNutt** and **Jane Holmes**, District IV; **Carmen Morales-Jones**, and **Sally Finley**, District V; and **Ora Jean Henry** and **Helen Garcia Valdez**, District VI.

Chairs of state level committees included **Linda Ellis Pinkerton, Fran Marinari, Doris Nesbit, Dr. Joan Lutton, Carrie Frye, Maudie LaPlante, Sandra Smith, Sharon Lassiter, Ruth McCrary, Lou Burns, Edie Smith, Nancy Thompson, Carol Ann Casey, Beverly Stagg, Connie Kostyra, Beverly Kelley, and Leslie Rickabaugh**.

At the 2005 Fall Executive Board/Workshop, **FDOE Consultant, June Hickey**, and representative from International, **Dr. Beverly Helms**, were the key speakers. Nearly \$5,000 and numerous boxes of school supplies were collected to aid the Hurricane Katrina victims.

The 2006 Leadership Growth Seminar was held at the Tampa Westshore Marriott with 36 members involved including committee members, participants, and presenters. At the International Convention held in San Diego, California in July 2016, the international scholarship amount was changed from \$5,000 to \$6,000 and educators retired less than two years could be inducted. Associate membership was proposed but did not pass at that time.

At the 2006 Fall Executive Board/Workshop, **Jacquelyn Cuppy**, International President, was the key speaker with more than 200 in attendance. The 2007 State Convention was held at the Orlando Airport Marriott and **Dr. Barbara Day**, International President, was the Society representative. **Doris Nesbit** and **Barbara Gillis** received the Sara B. Ferguson Achievement Award. **Brenda Hardman** and **Lynda Wolverton** won both an international and a state scholarship. Others receiving state scholarships were **Vanessa McAllister, Patricia McDaniel, Diane Frailing, and Jamie Mahoney**.

Individuals tapped for membership in the Hall of Fame during this biennium included **Mary Jane Armstrong, Babs Bailey, Roxanne Berger, Lou Burns, Carrie Frye, Gerry Hacker, Ora Jean Henry, Connie Kostyra, Sharon Lasseter, and Jan McNutt**.

Ann, it doesn't seem possible that 15 years have passed since you served as our state organization president. Thank you for your gracious service, beautiful smile, and dedicated leadership to the state DKG organization.



## Meet the New District Directors



### District I: Sara Watters

Sara Watters is a speech language pathologist with 17 years experience. She has worked in early intervention, home health, and a variety of school settings. Currently,

Sara serves students in ESE classrooms and general education at Riversink Elementary in Wakulla County.

Sara joined DKG's Alpha Lambda Chapter in 2016 because she thought it would be a good way to learn from fellow educators. When inducted, Sara had no idea she would meet outstanding educators from around the state. Attending the Leadership Seminar in 2018 was a catalyst. As a result of attending Leadership, Sara had the opportunity to present at Fall Workshops, State Conventions, and District Meetings. She has been on the Florida Leadership Seminar Committee since 2019.

Her goal for District I is that members follow the words from the DKG song, "Forward moving ever!" We must honor the strong foundation given to us but continue to strive to move forward. This means giving ourselves the freedom to fail. Progress over perfection helps members leave our comfort zone. Moving forward includes not only welcoming new things but also building on current strengths.

DKG means connection, mentorship, and challenging ourselves to continue to grow. Our students continue to have more in-depth needs. "WE CAN DO IT! Please join us at Trinity United Methodist Church in Tallahassee on Saturday, January 24, 2024, as we work to be more in 2024.



### District II Director: Kim Baggs



Kim Baggs was inducted as a member in the Putnam County DKG Chapter of Alpha Sigma in 2009. She has served on various committees including membership and educational excellence. She has presented breakout sessions at district meetings as well as State meetings. She is the current president of Alpha Sigma but has also served as past president for two consecutive bienniums. She also serves as District II Director for the 2022-2024 biennium.

Kim got her start in education as a Pre-Kindergarten teacher over twenty years ago and has also taught kindergarten, first, second, and third grade. She has also served as Curriculum coach, Teacher on Special Assignment, and Assistant Principal for elementary pre-kindergarten through fifth grade, and Cambridge Jr. Sr. High School. She is currently in an Instructional Support position for her district assisting at various schools as needed, supporting professional development, and leading the New Worlds Reading Initiative and the RAISE tutoring program.

The District II chapter presidents will hold a special session this January in Palatka, Florida, to continue to plan and discuss the upcoming District II Meeting held on February 5, 2024. The theme for District II is "Reaching for More in 2024." It will be a meeting to encourage members to use the gifts they possess to their fullest extent in order to be all they can be for DKG because High Expectations are the key!



## Meet the New District Directors

### District III Director: Brenda Johnson

Brenda began her career in education as a para-professional at age 19. She decided to seek a degree in Elementary Education at Valdosta State University. After moving to Bartow, she became an elementary school teacher for the next 17 years at a delightful country school. During that time, Brenda completed her master's in administration/supervision and became an administrator for the next 25 years, ending her career as a school principal of Pinewood Elementary School in Eagle Lake. She loves children and was an avid proponent of reading.



In 1989, one of her teacher friends introduced her to DKG. What a difference it has made in her life! Networking with educators all over Florida and throughout the U.S. has been a highlight of her career in education. Attending area, district, state, and international DKG events has been a great source of joy and lasting friendships. Now she feels it is time to give back! She is delighted to be a District Director and looks forward to meeting each chapter and getting to see the outstanding acts of kindness that these chapters are doing in their neighborhoods, schools, and even in other parts of the world! Brenda is highly concerned about the dwindling number of DKG members in Florida, and she believes that her most important goal is to help chapters increase their memberships! This includes bringing back former members!

Brenda is looking forward to a large group in Lakeland on **February 3, 2024**, as Polk County Chapters host the District III Meeting to be held at **Highlands Church of Christ in Lakeland**. "Come with Me to DKG" is our theme, and success is our goal! Come and bring your newest members!



### District IV Co-Directors: Vicky Biro & Debbie Phelps



**Vicky Biro** and **Debbie Phelps** are both active members with Beta Sigma Chapter in Brevard County. Vicky is still working for Brevard County Schools and was recently honored as Employee of the Year 2022 at Discovery Elementary/ Debbie Phelps has retired from Brevard County Schools as a Title 1 Instruction Assistant with 15 years of service .

### District IV Meeting in Palm Bay

The District IV meeting is planned for April 6th, 2024. The artwork for District IV's theme is Escape to the Wild to relax with a jungle type atmosphere created by decorations. The Friday night will be a fun event of Bunco with a buffet catered by Texas Roadhouse. We will have fun prizes for our Bunco winners.

On Saturday, a continental breakfast buffet will be held before opening ceremonies. After our welcoming, Renee Conwell has been invited as the guest speaker/stand up comedian to entertain us with some stories about how women get overwhelmed with all the things expected from us. She will include some humorous teacher stories shared by her daughter, Penny, who is a teacher in Orlando. Our breakout event agenda will include topics on relaxation, organization to help cut down on stress, and how to enjoy life more. There will also be a luncheon provided before ending ceremonies. Below are present and past District IV Directors attending the Fall Workshop:



## Meet the New District Directors

### District V Director: Betty Bunnell



Betty Bunnell is retired and loves to cook, shop at Chiccos, and attend good movies and live shows where she resides at Century Village. As a music major, voice, piano, and flute were her instruments. During the season, Betty attends the Florida Grand Opera performances and plays at Parker Playhouse, as well as other local theater venues. She has directed a church choir for 30 years, and she is a member of the Broward Teachers Union Retirees, where she assists in scheduling the group's programs. In Betty's 41 years as an educator, she was a teacher of music, gifted students, supervisor, and ESE Specialist. Her theory about teaching is that "Variety is the spice of life!"

During Betty's 12 year tenure in DKG, she has attended every fall and spring workshop while promoting DKG as an international society for key women educators. She has also spoken to school principals and received permission to introduce DKG at their faculty meetings. Many educators have not heard of DKG, and this is a good way to introduce and promote our society, as well as suggesting our website, <http://www.dkg.org>, to them.

At the Fall Workshop in September, Betty held a workshop for District V Presidents. Everyone present agreed to hold the 2024 District V meeting at the First Baptist Church of Ft. Lauderdale. The date selected for the 2024 District V meeting is Saturday, March 16, 2024, from 8 AM to 2 PM. Presidents voted to meet on January 28, 2023, to begin planning for the District V meeting. **Beta Alpha's President, Raquel House** will host this meeting at her home in Davie, Florida.



### District VI Director: DeeDee Rice



DeeDee Rice became a member of the Gamma Upsilon chapter of DKG in 2011. She has served as Fund Raising Chair, Corresponding Secretary, President, and Vice President of her chapter since joining. During the biennium of 2019 and 2021, she served on the Leadership Committee and is now the District VI Director for the 2022-2024 biennium. Before becoming a member of DKG, she was active in the leadership of the Junior League of Sarasota, where she held many leadership positions including President of the 600 member organization in 2004-2005.

DeeDee taught at the elementary level for 44 years; 35 of which were in Sarasota, FL. Retirement came in June of 2020 right at the time of Covid; both good and bad timing. Good to be out of teaching but bad to be joining society again. In the fall of 2022, she started working as a long-term substitute in a 5th grade gifted classroom in the Sarasota school district until the end of the year.

The District VI meeting will be held February 17, 2024, at the Carlyle Inn in Sarasota, FL. The theme is "To Bloom is the process of Becoming"; dealing with how each chapter can grow to be stronger and reach farther to make an impact on our communities.



## Sharing Chapter Experiences

### Alpha Chi Chapter

Roxanne Berger with Claudia McIvor, Alpha Chi Chapter President, and Brenda Johnson, District III Director attended Alpha Chi Chapter "High Tea," in Saint Petersburg on December 3, 2022.



### Alpha Kappa Chapter

Alpha Kappa would like to congratulate **Janie Register** on her new position as Child Find, Parent & Family Services, and Gifted Specialist for the Florida Diagnostic Learning & Resources System (FDLRS) Miccosukee. In her new role, Janie provides developmental screenings to children ages 3 to 5 years old, technical support to parents and families of students with disabilities, as well as supports districts in their efforts to provide gifted services to students.



FDLRS is a discretionary project of the Florida Department of Education's Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services. The FDLRS network includes 18 Associate Centers that serve all school districts in Florida. The four central functions of the Associate Center are Child Find, Parent & Family Services, Human Resource Development, and Technology.

The FDLRS Miccosukee Associate Center provides an array of instructional and technical support services to the Exceptional Student Educational programs in the school districts of Florida A&M University (FAMU) Lab School, FSU Lab School, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Taylor, and Wakulla. For additional information regarding FDLRS Miccosukee Associate Center, please visit our website: Home - FDLRS Micco.

**Allyson Watson** was recently named as the Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at FAMU. President Robinson announced Adminis-

trative Restructuring to Foster Operational Excellence. During the FAMU Board of Trustees retreat in August, they began discussing plans to enhance operational efficiency by adopting a new administrative structure that more effectively aligns



our administrative talent with the University's strategic priorities and critical needs. President Robinson states, "After conducting a review of higher education best practices, and soliciting feedback from external education experts, I am pleased to announce our plans, which will help solidify our status as the nation's highest ranked public Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and support our aspirations to be recognized as a top 100 national public university. These changes include the establishment of a new Chief Operating Officer role, who will guide strategy for vice presidents and other senior administrators to improve outcomes on key performance indicators and achieve operational excellence."

### Beta Sigma Chapter



**Vicky Biro**, a resident of Palm Bay, was recently honored as Employee of the Year for 2022 at Discovery Elementary in Brevard County Schools. She has been a member of Beta Sigma Chapter since 2015. Congratulations! Vicky was past co-president of Beta Sigma and now co-director of District IV.

### Delta Beta Chapter

The Lakeland History and Culture Center opened recently in the main library just a stone's throw from beautiful Lake Morton. It is over 1,400 square feet of elegantly laid out exhibit space. It will house a range of constantly growing contributions that tell the story of Lakeland from the perspective of its many cultures and ethnicities. The initial exhibit is titled "Ties That Bind: 1880 – 1925" and covers the years of Lakeland's founding.

## Sharing Chapter Experiences

Exhibits should change about every six months. The Lakeland History Room's collection features a variety of materials including documents, photos, maps, building plans, audiovisual media, scrapbooks, and artifacts. As you browse the various exhibits a train whistle blows, reminding you of Lakeland's rich railroad history. The Special Collections unit will acquire, preserve, and make materials accessible to anyone researching Lakeland's history. The DIY Digitize area is available for preservation of treasured memories. It is free, easy to use, and allows the user to exit with a finished product of updated technology (i.e., VHS tape to DVD).

Young students visiting the library will enjoy the items on the rolling cart, such as the miniature telegraph. The Donor's Reception was held October 27, having been rescheduled three times since last May. Hurricane Ian was the most recent culprit to postpone the reception. However, it was worth the wait. The entire night was sponsored by Lakeland Electric. The heavy hors d'oeuvres floated down from a kitchen in heaven.



Pictured above from left to right are **Pat Smith, Rosalinda Collins, Lynda Wolverton, Susan Norton, and Yvonne McShay.**

Swan Brewing provided all spirits. Publix donated an amazing cake in the shape of our birthday cake water tower. Speeches were short and meaningful from everyone including the Former Mayor Gow Fields who also chaired the Advisory Committee, Don Selvage, Advisory Committee Vice Chair whose wife is a teacher, City Commissioner Philip Walker, who initially took the idea to the city commission, Sue Bentley, community volunteer with a heart for the arts, and Mayor Bill Mutz. Speakers acknowledged the 19 person Advisory Committee whose time, hard work, and contributions were honored. DKG's own **Yvonne McShay** was part of the committee. Delta Beta Chapter's donation placed us at the Platinum Level;

therefore, several of our members were invited to the reception and enjoyed every minute.

### Gamma Beta Chapter

Gamma Beta Chapter President, **Mary Cangemi**, recently contacted **Ann Tikka**, from the Alpha Delta chapter in Southwest Florida that was directly hit by Hurricane Ian to determine a need for gift cards to support displaced struggling students. Ann teaches at Caloosa Middle School in Cape Coral and out of the 200 students she teaches, seven students lost their homes in the hurricane and two additional students moved out of the area due to loss. Gamma Beta graciously donated \$740 worth of gift cards for Publix, Target, Visa, Walmart, and Amazon to support Caloosa Middle's struggling students who lost everything. These gifts cards are being distributed by Caloosa Middle's social worker and counselor to families of displaced students to help them celebrate the holidays. Thank you, Gamma Beta, for brightening the lives of these children!



### Gamma Nu Chapter

Members of Gamma Nu wish to give a heartfelt message of thanks to Florida DKG, as well as International DKG. After Hurricane Ian hit, members were tackling cleanup and repairs, along with high insurance deductibles. The emergency assistance fund helped regain a small bit of normalcy.

- Normalcy meant holding a chapter meeting three weeks after Ian.
- 
- Normalcy meant having our book club 4 weeks after Ian.
- 
- Normalcy means going full steam ahead with our GIA fundraising, our annual fashion show, and poinsettia sale.
- 
- This quick return to normalcy was helped by the emergency assistance fund.
- 

*We deeply thank you.*

## Sharing Chapter Experiences

### Kappa Chapter

On October 21, 2022, there was a special luncheon held at the University of Florida in Gainesville to honor **Jhncyna Williams McRae** and others. The event was the 60th Anniversary of Undergraduate Integration.



"In 1962, the University of Florida integrated its undergraduate student body with an enrollment of seven African American students. These pioneering students broke through racial barriers to exercise their right to a college education." Jhncyna was one of those seven students and is the only one of the seven still living.

Jhncyna also was the **first African American to graduate from the UF College of Education**, as well as being the **first African American female to graduate from the University of Florida**. She graduated in 1964.

Jhncyna Williams McRae, who lives in Bradenton, joined Delta Kappa Gamma in May of 1990 as a member of Kappa Chapter in District III. Kappa Chapter is very proud to have Jhncyna McRae as one of their own and recognizes her place in history as a **champion for both racial equity and women's rights**.

### Mu Chapter



Recently a holiday luncheon of Mu Chapter in Citrus County was held at the home of chapter member and hostess **Beth Noland**. **State President Roxanne Berger** was the honored guest and there were four other guests at the gathering with three being potential members. A fun Chinese auction "fundraiser" took place and raised over \$200 to help cover the \$1,000 grant-in-aid that will be presented by the chapter to a local educator.



Mu Chapter in Citrus County recognized three members recently, honoring them for their 5-year increment anniversaries of being in DKG. Shown are **Melissia Varnadore (5 years)**, **Chapter President Michelle Josey standing in for member Lillie Bidle (40 years)**, and **Phyllis Bolin (55 years)**.

**Florida State President Roxanne Berger** was recently honored by Mu Chapter for her efforts in leading our state chapters forward with enthusiasm and energy. Shown presenting Roxanne with her "Rose of Recognition" is **Chapter President Michelle Josey**. The chapter created the "Rose of Recognition" award to periodically honor members who have gone out of their way to help the chapter and consequently, help education.



### Beta Chi Chapter

Beta Chi Chapter has been busy this fall. They welcomed a transfer member, **Elisabeth Davis**, in September and happily inducted a new member, **Emilia Odife**, at the October meeting. They made sure that actively teaching members knew that the

## Sharing Chapter Experiences

chapter appreciated all that they do in the classroom during these stressful times by delivering a “Boo” bag to each of them at their school. It was a treat to see their surprised faces. Beta Chi had a fun time at their annual holiday auction held to raise scholarship funds for a college recipient sponsored by our chapter.

### Alpha Beta Chapter



Alpha Beta Chapter of DKG experienced a joyous Christmas celebration at the beautiful home of member, **Karen Goins**. Chapter sisters enjoyed delicious food, fellowship, frivolity galore, and more! Members were encouraged to create masks to be worn during the festivities. Thanks, Karen!

### Gamma Gamma Chapter



The DKG members of Gamma Gamma Chapter in Saint Augustine, celebrated their 50th birthday in 2022. **Co-Presidents Kris Kelley and Laurie Keller** organized a wonderful High Tea. The tea honored members who have been In DKG for 40 years or more.

- Nancy Sublett**- 58 years
- Charter member – Mary Alice Wolfe** – 50 years
- Charter member – Juanne Weeks** – 50 Years
- Dolores Rowley** – 49 years
- Pat Garretson** – 47 years
- Nettie Ruth Brown** – 46 years
- Peg Misner** - 43 years
- Roxanne Berger** – 42 years
- Claire Comstock** – 41 years
- Carole Morgan** – 41 years
- Linda Allen** – 40 years
- Ruth Martin** – 39 years

## FL-DKG Scholarship Committee



**Angie Wright-Nash, Chair**  
ang.nash@gmail.com

Happy holiday season to you from your FL-DKG Scholarship Committee!

Your district representatives are:

- I Sharon Simmons** sharonteacher49@yahoo.com
- II Hope Jernigan** jerniganh@columbiak12.com
- III L. Michelle Josey** mjosey@tampabay.rr.com
- IV DeeAnn Hennighan** erryke@hotmail.com
- V Katie Martinez** katierox1217@gmail.com
- VI Barb Davis** babsdavis@comcast.net

All of the forms have been updated for the second year of the biennium and are available on the Scholarship Committee page of the Florida State organization website at <https://dkgflorida.weebly.com/scholarship-committee.html>. If you are working on an advanced degree, or if you know someone in our organization who is doing so and meets the criteria, please make sure they know how to find what they need! Make sure that your chapter has reached out to your district’s representative with a “Scholarship Contact.” The contact can be the chair for your chapter’s scholarship committee, your chapter president, or anyone else who is willing to be the “go-to person” about all things scholarship for your chapter.

The deadline for the FL-DKG Scholarship application, recommendations, and all related documents is February 24, 2023. All information can be found on the Scholarship web page on the Florida Organization website.

If you have any questions or feedback, please feel free to contact me directly at ang.nash@gmail.com and have a Happy New Year!



# THE ARTS



**Florida Artists Featured  
in DKG International's  
Fine Arts Gallery:**

**Connie Kostyra, Susan Salesses  
& Beth Werner**

The DKG International Arts and Humanities Jury send thanks to **Connie Kostyra, Susan Salesses, and Beth Werner** for being among the DKG Gallery of Fine Arts entrants of the August 15 – September 15, 2022, submission period. Their artwork has been accepted into the DKG Fine Arts Gallery. The unveiling of the new DKG Fine Arts Gallery took place in mid-November, and their work is on display on the gallery for six months, after which it will be archived for two years.

Another opportunity for showcasing your accepted work is at the DKG International 2023 Conference or 2024 Convention Expo. If you are interested in participating in either of these events, please complete the Google form that will be available on the DKG website under the conference page.



Also, International proudly announces the publication of photographs titled "Pretty in Pink" and "Butterfly Beauty" by **Susan Salesses**. She is a resident of Clearwater, Florida, and a member of **Beta Iota Chapter** since 1989.



Finally, International is pleased to display the publication of 2-D artwork entitled "Sunflowers" and "Harvest Time" by **Beth Werner** in the DKG Gallery of Fine Arts. She is a resident of Pinecrest, Florida, and a member of **Omicron Chapter** since 1989.



International is pleased to announce the publication of photographs titled "Little Santa Fe Lake" and "Magnolia Blossom" by **Connie Kostyra** in the DKG Gallery of Fine Arts, an online gallery of works of art and letters at [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org). Connie, a resident of Melbourne, is a DKG member since 1978, first in **Omicron** and now **Delta Eta Chapter**.



DKG had great interest in the Art Gallery and consider it to be an especially important venture for the Society. All Florida members are encouraged to submit additional works during the submission period from January 15 – February 15, 2023. Congratulations Connie, Susan, and Beth for your accomplishments!

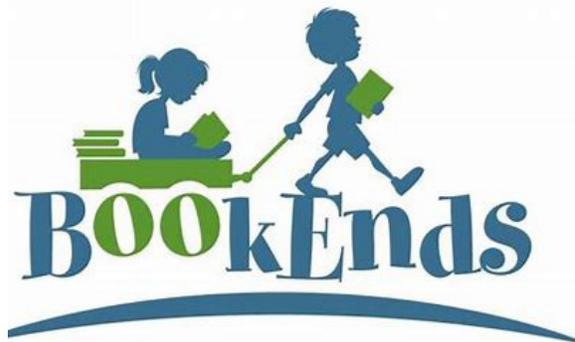


**Good Enough**  
by  
**Jaime Baize, Chapter Treasurer, DKG Mu Chapter**

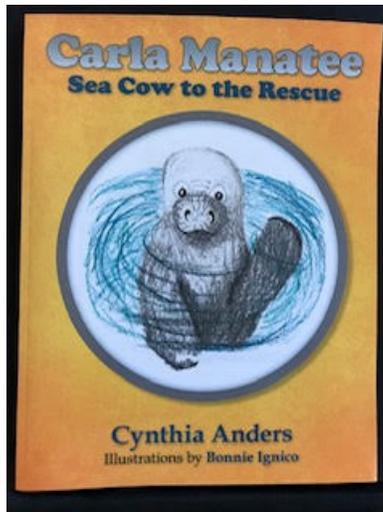
Self-Confidence is a trait many of us strive to achieve,  
 It starts in your heart vowing in yourself to believe.  
 But then how do you know if you're ready to make it,  
 Will others believe in you too or will they think you just fake it?  
 Determination and courage accompany this trait,  
 They guide and govern your goal-seeking fate.  
 So add in your spirit, show grit, and be tough,  
 Then all that you contribute will certainly be good enough.  
 But, is "good enough" enough for the members of DKG,  
 For the hard-working, accomplished sisters surrounding me?  
 From our President to Committee members and all those in between,  
 You are the most outstanding contributors this field has ever seen.  
 Scholarships and speakers, literacy initiatives, and inspirational sharing,  
 Reading to Pre-K, gifts for seniors and teens, is only part of our caring.  
 When the expectation is high and the outcomes soar,  
 We, as a society, are always striving to do more.  
 So, we must reflect on ourselves to know all that we do,  
 Makes a difference in our community and for our self-confidence too.  
 "Is this good enough?" is the wrong question, it's.... which message is right for this moment?  
 It's our job as teachers to decide, to share the lesson, and stand proud to own it.  
 DKG has grown many leaders, partners, and high-achievers,  
 Building confidence through positive change, and making those around us, believers.  
 We stand tall as individuals but together we're tough,  
 Each DKG member's legacy will be more than enough.

**Jaime Baize** has been an educator for 20 years and a member of DKG since 2011 when she joined the **Gamma Delta Chapter** in Lake County and then transferred to **Mu Chapter** in Citrus County where she currently serves as Treasurer. Jaime started her career as a kindergarten teacher, taught third grade, fifth grade, been an interventionist, and currently serving as an assistant principal. Throughout her career as an educator, Jaime has shared her love of books, reading, and writing with her students. She has also shared her love of reading and creating poetry with her students and schools.

"Give me a topic and I'll turn it into poetry," she says. From short stories to poems for special events, Jaime has created countless meaningful poems for others. "Good Enough" was written for a DKG Chapter meeting. It served as an inspirational moment to remind our members of the positive impact we make as educators. When Jaime retires, she hopes to continue sharing her love of literature by writing children's books.



### **Carla Manatee Sea Cow to the Rescue**



**Cynthia Anders** is the author of *Carla Manatee Sea Cow to the Rescue*. Illustrator **Bonnie Igaico** and Cindy met as members of **Mu Chapter**. Cindy had been searching for an artist for ten years to illustrate the book. Since its publication, Cindy has moved to Texas and joined a chapter there.

As an artist and art teacher for thirty eight years, **Bonnie Igaico** read the book and pictures came immediately to her head. She is a former District III Director.

The book is on sale for \$12.00 at three different stores in Citrus County, Franklin Anderson Gallery in Crystal River, Mermaid Aquarium Encounter in Lecanto, and Sunshine Boutique in Inverness. This photo was taken at the Mermaid Aquarium Encounter.



## Communication Awards Update



**Pam Pierce, Chair**  
**Communications & Marketing Committee**  
[chillpierce@comcast.net](mailto:chillpierce@comcast.net)

Now is the time of year to review the criteria for your DKG Communications Award. Thanks to all who attended our workshop at the Fall Conference. Your questions and participation enhanced our workshop.

The criteria to be eligible for the award is posted on the DKG Florida Website ([dkgflorida.weebly.com](http://dkgflorida.weebly.com)). We appreciate the chapters who have their website posted on the Florida website and share their newsletters. Your website postings and newsletters allow chapters to see the exciting activities in your chapter. We also get to see and learn about your members. It is so exciting to arrive in Orlando and meet face to face the members we have learned about through your communication postings.

Please contact members of our committee if you have questions about the Communications Award. Remember your documentation is due March 15, 2023. We look forward to your chapter receiving the Florida DKG State Communications Award.



**Elinor Mount-Simmons (I)** [emountsimmons@gmail.com](mailto:emountsimmons@gmail.com)  
**Pam Pierce (II)** [chillpierce@comcast.net](mailto:chillpierce@comcast.net)  
**Yvonne McShay (III)** [ymcshay@gmail.com](mailto:ymcshay@gmail.com)  
**Angie Wright-Nash (III)** [ang.nash@gmail.com](mailto:ang.nash@gmail.com)  
**Bonnie Kelley (III)** [mustateditor@gmail.com](mailto:mustateditor@gmail.com)  
**Vicki Coats (IV)** [Kc10apple@live.com](mailto:Kc10apple@live.com)  
**Missy Jones (IV)** [dkgmustate@gmail.com](mailto:dkgmustate@gmail.com)  
**Gussie Sakowicz (V)** [gussiebowen@yahoo.com](mailto:gussiebowen@yahoo.com)  
**Sharon Wallen (V)** [Solaceplace07@aol.com](mailto:Solaceplace07@aol.com)  
**Gale Carter (VI)** [gdcdenise@gmail.com](mailto:gdcdenise@gmail.com)

## Spotlight On... Dr. Vivian Posey



### Southeast Regional Representative U.S. Forum Steering Committee

During the meeting of the US Forum, held at the DKG International Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana in July, Dr. Vivian Posey was elected to the position of Southeast Regional Representative to the U. S. Forum Steering Committee for the 2022-2024 Biennium. The duties of a US Forum Steering Committee member include determining the priority issues of DKG members, planning informational programs aligned with proposed or enacted federal legislation that impacts women, children, and education, and coordinating regional conferences and the bi-annual National Legislative Seminar (NLS) in Washington, D.C.

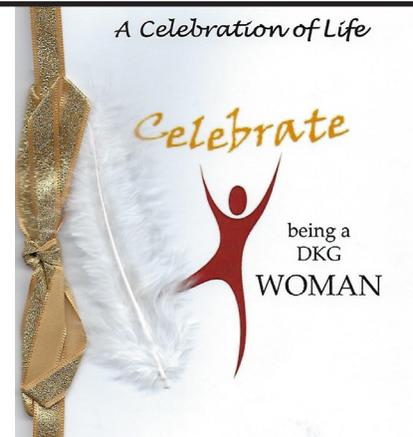
Dr. Posey is currently the Chair of the state Legislative Committee and attended the NLS in March 2018, where she interacted with DKG members from across the country and met with Florida's Congressional leaders on the topics of concern to Florida DKG members.

Dr. Posey is a former teacher, curriculum specialist, and school administrator in Lee County, Florida, and served as the Chair and Program Director of the Educational Leadership Department at Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida, where she taught until 2017.

She is Chair of the Education Committee and a member of the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County and serves on the state Education Committee of LWV-Florida.

She was privileged to be a speaker during the first DKG virtual March for Our Lives on June 11, 2022, where she added her voice to those of other teachers and leaders who issued impassioned pleas to reduce school violence and the prevalence of firearms in our communities.

As the Southeast Regional Representative to the Steering Committee, Dr. Posey has pledged to fulfill the duties of this position by informing Southeast Region members of legislative actions related to DKG issues, promoting the value of the 2024 National Legislative Seminar as a worthwhile professional experience, and planning memorable experiences that will enhance the ability of all DKG Key Women Educators to become effective advocates for change.



### Francine S. Brickman Beta Omega Chapter District III September 1, 2022 Largo, Florida



Fran Brickman, 78, passed away at Morton Plant Hospital in Clearwater, on September 1, 2022, following 4 weeks with a high fever and dizzy spells that the doctors could not diagnose. She was born on November 13, 1943.

She retired from her Title One position at Frontier Elementary from Pinellas County Schools in Clearwater.

Fran joined DKG on December 11, 2010, and served as Beta Omega's Chapter Newsletter Editor for many years. Fran was extremely proud of assembling it with her granddaughter, Hailey Rank, providing technology assistance when needed. She also served as Committee Chair of Beta Omega's Holiday Boutique.

**Evangeline Holt**  
**Beta Lambda Chapter**  
**District I**  
**December 2, 2022**  
**Pensacola, Florida**



Evangeline Holt, 89, died peacefully on December 2, 2022, at the Haven of Our Lady of Peace. A native of Pensacola, Van was born on April 8, 1933. Following her 1951 graduation from Pensacola High School, she attended Florida State University receiving a degree in Education.

Van was instantly loved by anyone who knew her and always greeted everyone with joy and happiness. We will miss the sparkle in her eyes, the beautiful smile on her face and the radiant love in her heart that she shared with all that knew her.

A celebration of life was held on December 20, 2022, at the St. Christopher's Episcopal Church. In lieu of flowers, friends of Van may make contributions to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals or St. Christopher's Episcopal, 3200 N. 12th Ave, Pensacola, Florida, 32503.

**Florence Pasquale**  
**Beta Lambda Chapter**  
**District I**  
**December 20, 2022**

**Milton, Florida**



Florence Charlotte Hussung Pasquale, 91, of Pensacola passed away peacefully at home on December 20, 2022. Florence was born on February 19, 1931, in Louisville, Kentucky..

She attended Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Kentucky, for her undergraduate degree, the Presbyterian School of Christian Education (now Union Presbyterian Seminary), in Richmond, Virginia, for her first master's degree, and the University of West Florida, in Pensacola, for her second master's. Florence taught elementary and middle school for over 25 years- 23 in Escambia County, before retiring in 1998.

Since 1977, Flo was a DKG member having served as past president of Beta Lambda Chapter from 1988-1989.

**Ann L. Stoutt**  
**Beta Sigma Chapter**  
**District IV**  
**February 2, 2022**  
**Melbourne, Florida**

Ann Stoutt of Melbourne, passed away on February 2, 2022. She taught Consumer Education at the secondary level. Ann joined DKG in April of 1959 and was a founding member of Beta Sigma Chapter. As a 63 year member of

DKG, she was currently a reserve member at age 102.

**Mary Ina (Lee) Whitaker**  
**Gamma Delta Chapter**  
**District IV**  
**May 5, 2022**  
**Mt. Vernon, Indiana**



Mary Ina (Lee) Whitaker, 94, of Mt. Vernon, Indiana passed away May 5, 2022, at Deaconess Midtown. She was born December 16, 1927, in Pendleton, Indiana. Mary received her Undergraduate Degree in Nursing and a Master's Degree in Health Science from Ball State University.

She was a registered nurse and worked as a school nurse for 28 years. She enjoyed being a school nurse at McKinley Junior High and ultimately Muncie Central High School where she supervised the dental clinic, chaperoned cheerleaders often driving them to away games. She loved her job and the care of her students, athletes, and those with special needs. She chaperoned many student trips including those to Copenhagen, Denmark and Nassau in the Bahamas. Upon retirement, Mary was the Muncie Community Schools Nurse Coordinator.

As a member of **Gamma Delta Chapter** of DKG, Mary Ina served as chapter president, second vice-president, and chair of various committees.

**Proposed Amendments to the Florida State Organization Bylaws**  
**Nancy Marmesh, Bylaws Chair**  
[nmarmesh@aol.com](mailto:nmarmesh@aol.com)

NOW READS	PROPOSED CHANGE	IF APPROVED, WILL READ
<p><b>#1.</b></p> <p><b>ARTICLE III- MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <p><b>Section A. Membership</b></p> <p>A. The membership of the Florida State Organization shall be composed of chapters within the boundaries of the state. All membership is in accordance with the Constitution, Article III and International Standing Rule 3.</p>	<p><i>Striking:</i> "All membership is in accordance with the Constitution, Article III and International Standing Rule 3."</p> <p><i>Inserting:</i> Membership in The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International shall be by invitation. At the time she joins the Society, a member becomes a member of the international Society, a state organization, and a chapter.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE III- MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <p><b>Section A. Membership</b></p> <p>A. The membership of the Florida State Organization shall be composed of chapters within the boundaries of the state. Membership in The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International shall be by invitation. At the time she joins the Society, a member becomes a member of the international Society, a state organization, and a chapter.</p>

**Rationale:** Classifies the levels of membership upon joining the Society.

NOW READS	PROPOSED CHANGE	IF APPROVED, WILL READ
<p><b>#2.</b></p> <p><b>ARTICLE III- MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <p><b>Section B. Classification</b></p> <p>B.2. Reserve membership shall be granted only to a member who is unable to participate fully in the activities of the chapter because of physical disability and/or geographic location. Reserve membership shall be granted by a majority vote of the chapter.</p>	<p><i>Striking:</i> "physical"</p> <p><i>Inserting:</i> medical</p> <p><i>Inserting:</i> and/or no technological connection/skill</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE III- MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <p><b>Section B. Classification</b></p> <p>B.2. Reserve membership shall be granted only to a member who is unable to participate fully in the activities of the chapter because of medical disability, geographic location, and/or no technological connection/skill. Reserve membership shall be granted by a majority vote of the chapter.</p>

**Rationale:** We now have entire chapters that meet virtually so physical disability or geographical location should not be the only qualifiers.

**Proposed Amendments to the Florida State Organization Bylaws**

NOW READS	PROPOSED CHANGE	IF APPROVED, WILL READ
<p>#3.</p> <p><b>ARTICLE III- MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <p><b>Section B. Classification</b></p> <p>B.3. An honorary member shall be a woman not eligible for active membership who has rendered notable service to education or to women and is elected to honorary membership in recognition of such service.</p>	<p><i>Striking:</i> Section B.3.</p> <p><i>Inserting a new:</i></p> <p>B.3.a. A chapter or state organization honorary member shall be a woman not eligible for active membership who has rendered notable service to education or to women and is elected to honorary membership in recognition of such service.</p> <p>B.3.b. An international honorary member shall be a woman who has rendered notable service to education or to women, who is elected to honorary membership in recognition of such service, and who is not a current or former member of DKG at the time of election.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE III- MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <p><b>Section B. Classification</b></p> <p>B.3.a. A chapter or state organization honorary member shall be a woman not eligible for active membership who has rendered notable service to education or to women and is elected to honorary membership in recognition of such service.</p> <p>B.3.b. An international honorary member shall be a woman who has rendered notable service to education or to women, who is elected to honorary membership in recognition of such service, and who is not a current or former member of DKG at the time of election.</p>

**Rationale:** The amendment would permit the Society to honor a woman who has achieved chapter, state, national or international prominence for her service to education or to women.

**Proposed Amendments to the Florida State Organization Bylaws**

NOW READS	PROPOSED CHANGE	IF APPROVED, WILL READ
<p><b>#4.</b></p> <p><b>ARTICLE III- MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <p><b>Section B. Classification</b></p> <p>B.4. Collegiate members shall be undergraduate or graduate students who meet the following criteria:</p> <p>a. Undergraduate student collegiate members shall</p> <p>(1) be enrolled in an institution offering an education degree and have the intent to continue academically and professionally in the field of education</p> <p>(2) be enrolled within the last two years of their undergraduate education degree.</p> <p>b. Graduate student collegiate members shall have graduate standing in an institution offering an education degree and have the intent to continue academically and professionally in the field of education.</p> <p>c. When a collegiate member starts her career as a paid educator, she will pay active member dues and become an active member. If a collegiate member does not pursue a career as an educator, her membership will expire upon graduation or withdrawal from the education degree program.</p>	<p><i>Striking in:</i> Section B.4.a. and B.4.a.(2) "Undergraduate"</p> <p><i>Inserting:</i> Bachelor</p> <p><i>Striking in</i> B.4.a.(1) and B.4.b. "offering an educational degree"</p> <p><i>Inserting in</i> B.4.a.(1) coursework leading to a career in education</p> <p><i>Inserting in</i> B.4.b. coursework in the field of education</p> <p><i>Inserting in</i> B.4.b. after "Graduate" Masters/Doctoral</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE III- MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <p><b>Section B. Classification</b></p> <p>B.4 Collegiate members shall be undergraduate or graduate students who meet the following criteria:</p> <p>a. Bachelor student collegiate members shall</p> <p>(1) be enrolled in an institution offering coursework leading to a career in education; and have the intent to continue academically and professionally in the field of education; and</p> <p>(2) be enrolled within the last two years of their bachelor's education degree.</p> <p>b. Graduate/Masters/Doctoral student collegiate members shall have Graduate/Masters/Doctoral standing in an institution offering coursework in the field of education; and have the intent to continue academically and professionally in the field of education.</p> <p>c. When a collegiate member starts her career as a paid educator, she will pay active member dues and become an active member. If a collegiate member does not pursue a career as an educator, her membership will expire upon graduation or withdrawal from the education degree program.</p>

**Rationale:** Europeans don't refer to undergraduate or graduate levels in college. This amendment will make this category clearer to all members.

**Proposed Amendments to the Florida State Organization Bylaws**

NOW READS	PROPOSED CHANGE	IF APPROVED, WILL READ
<p><b>#5.</b></p> <p><b>ARTICLE IV- FINANCE</b></p> <p><b>Section A. Annual Dues</b></p> <p>A.5. The chapter treasurer shall collect all dues and fees. State dues, scholarship fees, and induction fees shall be sent to the state treasurer; international dues shall be sent to the DKG Headquarters.</p>	<p><i>Striking:</i> "State dues, scholarship fees, and induction fees shall be sent to the state treasurer; international dues shall be sent to the DKG Headquarters."</p> <p><i>Inserting:</i> Immediately thereafter, the state organization portion of the dues shall be sent to the state organization treasurer and the international portion to the International Headquarters.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE IV- FINANCE</b></p> <p><b>Section A. Annual Dues</b></p> <p>A.5. The chapter treasurer shall collect all dues and fees. Immediately thereafter, the state organization portion of the dues shall be sent to the state organization treasurer and the international portion to the International Headquarters.</p>

**Rationale:** To amend the Florida State Organization Bylaws to be in conformity with the Constitution

NOW READS	PROPOSED CHANGE	IF APPROVED, WILL READ
<p><b>#6.</b></p> <p><b>ARTICLE VIII- COMMITTEES</b></p> <p><b>Section C. Duties of Committees</b></p> <p>6. Leadership Development</p> <p>C.6.a.The state leadership development committee shall plan and implement leadership programs for the membership. These programs shall be presented at the request of the state president.</p>	<p><i>Inserting a new:</i></p> <p>C.6.c. The leadership development committee will disseminate information to members regarding international leadership opportunities.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE VIII-COMMITTEES</b></p> <p><b>Section C. Duties of Committees</b></p> <p>6. Leadership Development</p> <p>C.6.a.The state leadership development committee shall plan and implement leadership programs for the membership. These programs shall be presented at the request of the state president.</p>

**Proposed Amendments to the Florida State Organization Bylaws**

<p>(Continued on the next page) (Continued from previous page)</p> <p>C.6.b. The Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar shall be the responsibility of the leadership development committee. Should the seminar be held after June 30 of the first year of the biennium, the committee from the preceding biennium shall have full responsibility for planning and implementation of the seminar.</p>		<p>C.6.b. The Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar shall be the responsibility of the leadership development committee. Should the seminar be held after June 30 of the first year of the biennium, the committee from the preceding biennium shall have full responsibility for planning and implementation of the seminar.</p> <p>C.6.c. The state leadership development committee will disseminate information to members regarding international leadership opportunities.</p>
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**Rationale:** The Florida State Organization communicates leadership development opportunities among international, state, and chapter levels. Providing a unified message to all members allows for members to engage in Leadership Development Training opportunities. In addition, the State Leadership Committee delivers leadership development opportunities for state organization and chapter leaders, thereby leading to sustainability for DKG.

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**Proposed Amendments to the Florida State Organization Bylaws**

NOW READS	PROPOSED CHANGE	IF APPROVED, WILL READ
<p><b>#7.</b></p> <p><b>FLORIDA STATE ORGANIZATION PROCEDURES</b></p> <p><b>Section F. Publication of Amendments to the Florida State Organization Governing Documents</b></p> <p>1. Amendments to the Florida State Organization Bylaws and/or Florida State Organization Standing Rules, that pass during each biennium shall be printed as an addendum and distributed to all members of Florida State Organization.</p> <p>2. An addendum will be reviewed each biennium to determine if the number of amendments warrant the reprinting of the entire Florida State Organization Bylaws, Florida State Organization Standing Rules, Florida State Organization Procedures, and Florida State Organization Courtesies.</p>	<p><i>Striking: 1. "Amendments to the Florida State Organization Bylaws and/or Florida State Organization Standing Rules, that pass during each biennium shall be printed as an addendum and distributed to all members of Florida State Organization."</i></p> <p><i>Inserting a new:</i></p> <p>1. Amendments to the Florida State Organization Bylaws, Florida State Organization Standing Rules, Florida State Organization Procedures, and/or Florida State Organization Courtesies that pass during each biennium shall be included in the Florida State Organization Bylaws immediately and the amended Bylaws posted to the Florida State Organization website within three weeks of the end of the Convention and include the revision date.</p> <p><i>Striking: 2. "An addendum will be reviewed each biennium to determine if the number of amendments warrant the reprinting of the entire Florida State Organization Bylaws, Florida State Organization Standing Rules, Florida State Organization Procedures, and Florida State Organization Courtesies."</i></p>	<p><b>FLORIDA STATE ORGANIZATION PROCEDURES</b></p> <p><b>Section F. Publication of Amendments to the Florida State Organization Governing Documents</b></p> <p>1. Amendments to the Florida State Organization Bylaws, Florida State Organization Standing Rules, Florida State Organization Procedures, and/or Florida State Organization Courtesies that pass during each biennium shall be included in the Florida State Organization Bylaws immediately and the amended Bylaws posted to the Florida State Organization website within three weeks of the end of the Convention and include the revision date.</p>

**Rationale:** To amend the Florida State Organization Procedures to eliminate the requirement to print and distribute the amended Bylaws to the membership. The amended Bylaws will be posted at the State website within three weeks of the Convention with the date of latest revision. Elimination of cost estimated to be more than \$600.

### Florida Rays

Members are encouraged to email information to be used in the **Florida Rays** to Bonnie Kelley at [MuStateEditor@gmail.com](mailto:MuStateEditor@gmail.com)

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



**Florida DKG Educational Foundation's Educational Grants & Professional Development applications Due by February 1, 2023**

**Myrna Santos Chapter Recognition applications Due March 1, 2023**

**Florida DKG State Spring Convention  
April 28 - 30, 2023  
Orlando Marriott Lake Mary**

### Information Sources

**DKG Florida Website**  
<https://dkgflorida.weebly.com>

**DKG Florida on Facebook**  
<https://www.facebook.com/DKG-Florida-State-Organization-128818413969052/>

**DKG Florida on Twitter**  
[@DKGMuState FL](https://twitter.com/DKGMuStateFL)

**Florida DKG Educational Foundation Website**  
[www.fldkgef.org](http://www.fldkgef.org)

**Florida DKG Educational Foundation on Facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/FLDKGEF](https://www.facebook.com/FLDKGEF)

**Florida DKG Educational Foundation on Twitter**  
[@FLDKGEF](https://twitter.com/FLDKGEF)

**DKG International Conferences  
July 11-16, 2023**

**Detroit, Michigan - The Westin Book Cadillac**

**July 18-22, 2023**

**Phoenix, Arizona - Sheraton Wild Horse Pass**

**July 26-29, 2023**

**Tampere, Finland - Tampere Hall**

**DKG International Convention  
Summer of 2024**

**National Harbor, Maryland - Gaylord National, D.C. Area**

**DKG International Convention  
Summer of 2026  
Aurora, Colorado- Gaylord Rockies**