

Leadership Development Applications Available Allyson Gantt, Chair

Looking to reboot your leadership skills? Ready to reconnect with other education professionals from around the state? Eager to share and learn at the same time? The Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar may be just the thing you need to refresh your chapter, your career, and yourself!



The next 2024 Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar will be held on June 16-19, 2024, at the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary. The seminar begins on Sunday afternoon and wraps up by mid-day



Wednesday. Ask any past participant and you'll likely hear it's worth taking time for yourself. Meals and hotel stay are paid for by our state organization. Participants, or their chapters, pay only \$150 per person for the four days, plus one meal on their own.

Applications for the seminar are available on the Florida State DKG Website under Committee Pages: Leadership Committee or directly at <https://forms.gle/iZZkfXh74wbJEcNL9>.

Applications will also be available at all District Meetings in 2024. The submission deadline to apply for the seminar is April 6, 2024.

Many of our current state organization leaders are graduates of the seminar. Join the 2024 Leadership Class and be part of our legacy of advocacy for DKG.

At most of the upcoming District Meetings, the Leadership Committee will be presenting a breakout session entitled: "Leadership, Lessons, and Loyalty." In this panel discussion about leadership advocacy for DKG, hear how past participants of the Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar have applied leadership lessons in their lives. Ask your burning leadership questions or share leadership challenges you are facing in your chapter or professional lives.



**2023 - 2025
Florida State Officers**



President
Terry Stanilonis
t1stan@bellsouth.net

First Vice-President
Nancy Bentz
nbenteach@protonmail.com

Second Vice-President
Nancy Marmesh
nmarmesh@aol.com

Recording Secretary
Mary Jo Holleran
mholleran8890@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary
Joann Higgins
gammanuhiggins@yahoo.com

Florida Rays
ISSN: 0896-3711

**Published 4 times a year
by
Florida State Organization
of
The Delta Kappa Gamma
Society International**

**Winter 2023-2024
Volume 69, Number 3**

Send address changes to

Florida State DKG Editor
Bonnie S. Kelley, Ed.S.
240 Oakanoah Circle
Brevard, NC 28712

MuStateEditor@gmail.com

**Florida DKG State Organization
2023 Fall Executive Board Meeting
Registrar's Report**

**Carolyn McGowan
State Meetings Registrar**

Total Registrations	170
Guests	3
Chapter Presidents	48
First Timers	15
Registered by ZELLE	37

Chapters with 8 or more attendees

Delta Gamma	District III	13
Beta Chi	District IV	11
Gamma Nu	District VI	9
Lambda	District III	8
Delta Beta	District III	8

**Emergency Fund
Missy Cumbie, Chair**

Dear **State Treasurer Ms. Stagg**,

Many thanks to the Florida State Organization of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International for their contribution to the recovery efforts required following the April 29, 2023 tornado which damaged my apartment. Fortunately, within two weeks my walls and broken window were repaired, and I was able to get a cleaning crew in to clean the dust and debris from my furniture, carpets, and floor. Your check certainly helped.

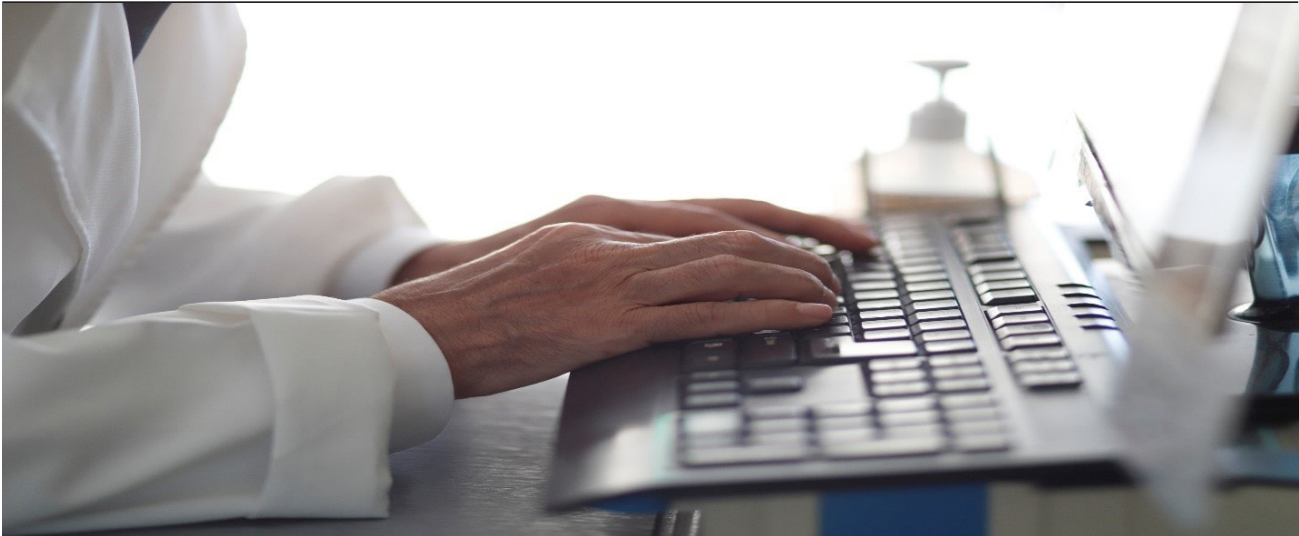
Now with a car replaced and my apartment liveable, I am pretty much back to normal (whatever that is). I'm a bit skittish when I see very black storm clouds and hear thunder; I never felt that way before April 29.

My DKG sister, **Annie Dougherty**, has been a great help during the past 3 1/2 weeks. I'm unsure what I would have done without her .

I am thankful to be alive and back in my apartment.

Sincerely,
Ellen V. Reed

Ellen has been a DKG member since 1986. Currently, she lives in North Palm Beach and is a member of **Gamma Lambda Chapter**.



The President's Voice

The success of the Florida State Organization (FSO) depends on the commitment and loyalty of its members, which can only be achieved through dedication and determination. As we move forward with technological advancements, it is essential to continuously update our protocols, tools, and training to recruit critical women educators successfully. We must also bridge the generational divide and transition to an electronic format while accommodating long-time members.

Our goal is to become a competitive organization that upholds the mission and vision of DKG and supports women educators in today's society. By doing so, we can ensure that the legacy of the Florida State Organization makes a difference for future educators. We aim to inspire members to appreciate the uniqueness of DKG and the power this organization embodies to change one's life for the better.

Our biennium theme, "Florida DKG Actively Engaging in Advocacy" highlights the importance of advocacy in supporting our DKG purposes. At our September Florida State Organization Fall Meeting, we held three-hour-long breakout sessions that focused on advocacy and how crucial it is to uphold the vision and mission of DKG. The sessions were as follows:

1. Advocacy for DKG: The Purposes of DKG emphasize the importance of committee work, facilitating breakout sessions, serving as chapter/state officers, sharing talents and gifts, and participating in various options such as attending chapter, state, and international conferences and conventions. All members share the responsibility of ensuring the organization thrives. **Educational Excellence and Membership chairs Dr. Jackie Green and Ann Comforter** facilitated an outstanding interactive session focusing on "mentoring" towards sustaining members' ability to succeed in the organization.

2. Legislative Advocacy: This session upheld two of the seven purposes of DKG. The Florida State Organization advocates for legislation impacting the profession and education of Florida students. Identifying our efforts through a non-partisan lens ensures our members have a voice advocating for "issues of concern" as we engage with policymakers locally and at the state level. **The Legislation Committee, chaired by Dr. Vivian Posey**, presented an excellent opportunity for members interested in legislative advocacy to enhance their knowledge of current issues and positively interact with their representatives.

3. Advocacy for Personal and Professional Growth: This session produced a variety of experiences for members earmarking Purposes 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6. Members are encouraged to pursue advanced degrees, seek financial support for their professional training endeavors, and write grants for the classroom through grants and scholarship opportunities. In addition, individual members are encouraged to facilitate breakout sessions in which their expertise is shared with members in a breakout session format. This past September featured a long-committed member, **Pat Smith**, who shared her passion for planning trips.

Pat's breakout session unknowingly created a unique outcome towards bridging the gap between generations of members. Pat is an average technology user of her phone, texting, emailing, and using a processor for writing. When asked to share her passion for planning trips as a breakout session topic, she required several days to consider the request. Pat agreed and began typing an outline for a printed fill-in-by-hand booklet, earmarking areas for writing in travel themes, accommodations, transportation, tourist attractions, and dining options.

The room setup included round tables to accommodate groups of six women, one from each of the six districts in Florida. Pat's exhibits were handwritten and posted around the room. Each group relied on their phones and maps of Florida furnished by Pat's careful planning.

The feedback from the breakout session was overwhelmingly positive. Comments, such as a fun activity and how wonderful it was to bond with other women, deemed this session a success. Fulfilling Purpose 1 is easily recognized. The outcome of the session produced a variety of traveling booklets from panhandle, northeast, central, northwest, southeast, and southwest Florida, which correlates with our six districts. This was a teachable moment, for sure.

A unique and decisive moment in bridging the generational gap between our members occurred when a technologically experienced member asked Pat if she could take the booklets as they were completed and post them on the FSO's state website with embedded links added in for each location attraction labeled by hand within the booklet(s).

Advocating is not limited solely to legislative efforts. Pat's breakout session supported our organization's mission and vision by bringing members together, creating a fun activity, and generating resources that could be shared with members across the state.

As we think about September 2024, who will step up to the challenge of creating a travel booklet for the southeast region to which Florida belongs? And, looking forward to the Convention in April 2025, who will facilitate the third and final session on an international travel booklet? Oh, rest assured, using technology is certainly permissible but not a requirement.

Terry Stanilonis




DKG Mission Statement

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes the professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education





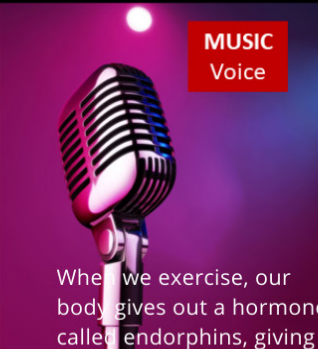




DKG Interest Inventory



Interest Inventory Survey

Completing the survey automatically places your name in the drawing for a free Fall 2024 State Meeting or a State 2025 Spring Convention registration.



<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Technology</div> 	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">MUSIC Voice</div>  <p>When we exercise, our body gives out a hormone called endorphins, giving us the feeling of joy.</p>	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">CREATIVE ARTS</div> 	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">WRITING Technical and Creative</div> 
<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">PHOTOGRAPHY VIDEOGRAPHY</div> 	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">MUSIC Instrumental</div> 	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">Florida DKG Interest Inventory Survey</div> <p>“Are you someone with a busy schedule? Do you want to contribute your skills at the state level, but only for a one-time event? If yes, please take a moment to fill out our survey and let us know your specific skills. We will arrange for you to volunteer for a one-time event during the current biennium.”</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">Terry Stanilonis, DKG FSO President</p>	



DKG FL State Scholarship Application = www.dkgflorida.weebly.com

Deadline: January 15, 2024

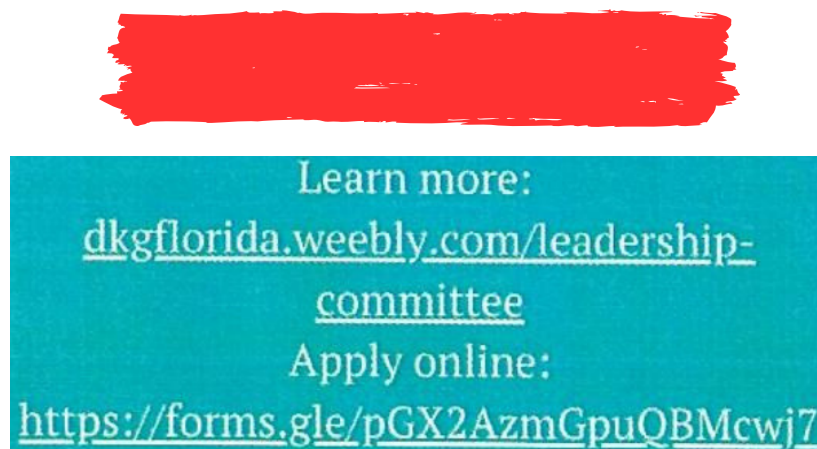
DKG International Scholarship Application = https://www.dkg.org/DKGS/DKGIEF/Funds/Scholarship_Fund.aspx

Deadline: February 1, 2024

Florida DKG Education Foundation/Grant & Award: <https://www.fldkgef.org/grant--award-information.html>

Deadline: February 1, 2024

Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar = Deadline April 6, 2024





Florida State Organization Fall Conference

WORKSHOP PROPOSAL

September 20-21, 2024

LAKE MARY MARRIOTT

Instructions: You may choose one of two ways to submit your proposal. 1) Print and send in the mail. 2) Scan the QR Code and complete a Google form. Send to: Nancy Bentz, dkgkeywomeneducators@gmail.com OR mail to 715 SW Rustic Circle, Stuart, Florida.

Name		Chapter		District	
Address		City		Zip	
Phone		Email			

Each breakout session will be 50 minutes.

Session Information					
Do you have a session preference? (X)					
Session 1		Session 2		Either	
<p style="color: #d9534f;">Title and Brief Workshop Description</p> <p style="background-color: #d9ead3; padding: 2px; color: #d9534f;">Consider - How does YOUR idea help advocate for DKG?</p> <p>Title: _____</p>					
<p style="color: #d9534f;">Equipment Needs and Room Set Up</p> <p>NOTE: Adaptors for MACs are not available as they vary depending on the computer.</p>					
Projector		Internet		PC Adaptor	
Special Room Setup Requests					

Workshop Proposal

Deadline: May 1, 2024

PHOTO RELEASE: By your attendance at this event you are granting your permission to be filmed, videotaped, audiotaped or photographed by any means and are granting full use of your likeness, voice and words without compensation.





Calling All Presenters

Florida State Organization Fall Conference
September 20-21, 2024



Advocacy - Legislative, DKG, Self

Have an idea, project, or program to share? Does your state committee or chapter have information to share? Save your spot to present at our fall conference now. Below, find the form, with an optional QR code for an online Google form application.

Questions? Nancy Bentz, email dkgkeywomeneducators@gmail.com

How does YOUR idea help advocate?



World Fellowship Is Expansion Sharon Wallen, NBCT, Chair

KUGEL – Noodle Pudding

KUGEL is a baked noodle casserole originating in Germany (DKG member nation in 1976) and is often served on Jewish holidays. I enjoy this as a dessert treat and it can also be served as part of your Brunch.

INGREDIENTS:

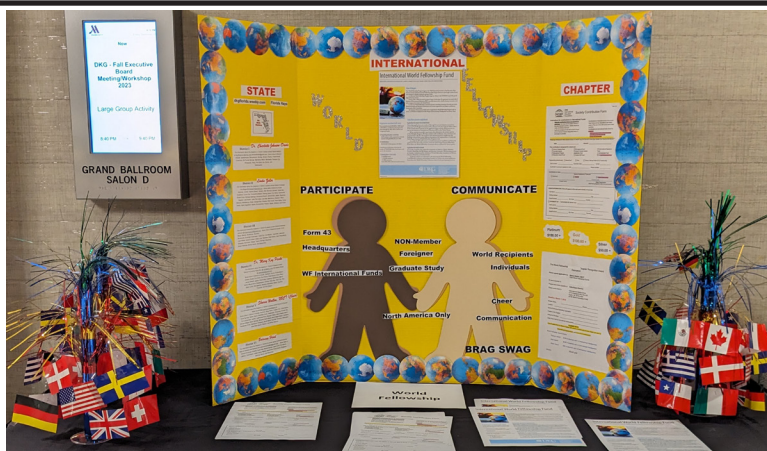
- 2 Tbsp unsalted butter
- cinnamon/nutmeg
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 12 oz wide egg noodles
- 8 oz sour cream
- 4 large eggs
- 6 oz butter
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 ½ cups cottage cheese
- 8 oz cream cheese
- 16 oz crushed pineapple



METHOD:

Preheat oven at 350 degrees. Lightly grease a shallow casserole dish. Cook noodles in boiling water until noodles are al dente. Stir occasionally. After 8 minutes, drain and cool.

Combine by whisking softened butter, eggs, cottage cheese, cream cheese, sugar, sour cream, grated nutmeg or cinnamon, vanilla, and drained crushed pineapple. Gently stir in noodles, mixing evenly within the mixture. Pour noodle mixture into greased Pyrex dish(es) and bake until golden. Serve when cooled.



Form 43, World Fellowship Chapter Recognition Application & 2023-2024 World Recipients' List

Florida Chapters, on October 29, 2023, I sent you ALL the information that you need for active engagement and advocacy in the DKG International World Fellowship Fund. Our website www.dkgflorida.weebly.com also has the forms and information. Use Form 43 to submit your donation to International Headquarters. With NO STRESS intended at all and consideration of your chapter's budget, Florida currently recognizes donations on Platinum, Gold, and Silver Levels. Submit the World Fellowship Chapter Recognition Award Application with evidence/proof to report your chapter's donation participation. Follow directions on the Application Form. Every donation EXPANDS opportunities for graduate students from abroad to further their specialized education in North America.

Use the 2023-2024 World Recipients' List to connect with one of those 23 graduate students to enrich your chapter's creativity, increase your chapter's joy, and expand your chapter's relevance by communicating and interacting with one of these ladies. Fifteen are first-time recipients and eight of them are 'extension' status.

Please share with me some of your fun, creative ways that you bring connectivity, charm, and greetings to the LADY OF YOUR CHOICE! I'd love to hear your adventure!

- Expand with altruism!
- Expand with energy!
- Expand with innovation!
- Expand with outlook, opportunity, and outcome!
- Expand with unity!



"District I is proud to contribute to the World Fellowship Fund which provides financial assistance to women from 23 countries (around the world) in pursuit of obtaining the knowledge and skills to educate people in their countries." **Dr. Charlotte Johnson-Davis (I)**

"Give locally through your home chapter to affect women and education globally. The impact of your generosity is life changing for our scholarship recipients. In turn, the recipients make a difference in the lives of other women and education in their communities. What an honor it is to affect change." **Linda Zeiler (II)**

"We unite worldwide educational excellence through advocacy." **Janis Turecky (II)**

"Your district thanks you for stepping in. Thanks!" **Sharon Thomas (III)**

"Education will help to give a voice to the women of the world." **Dr. Mary Kay Piesky (IV)**

"District VI cannot be missed!" **Brianna Hand (VI)**

Florida DKG Educational Foundation Ann Tikka, Board of Directors

The Florida DKG Educational Foundation (FLDKGEF) Board of Directors met on Friday, September 22, 2023, for their annual fall board meeting in Lake Mary. Members present included **Carol Ann Casey** (Chair),



Roxanne Berger (Immediate Past DKG Florida State Organization President 2025), **Dr. Constance Besco**, **Geraldine “Deanie” DeFelix** (Secretary Pro-Tem for Board Meeting), **Debra Graff** (webmaster), **Dr. Elsie Gross** (Director Emerita 2024), **Dr. Beverly Helms** (Vice-Chair), **Connie Kostyra** (Treasurer), **Kathy Raiford** (Secretary Pro-Tem for Annual Membership Meeting), **Diane Revels**, **Terry Stanilonis** (DKG Florida State Organization President 2027), and **Ann Tikka**. The Board missed **Kathy Diesner**, **Yvonne McShay**, and **Vicki Simms** (Secretary). After calling the meeting to order, reports were given by the secretary, treasurer, and committees.

Later that evening, the Board hosted the Annual Membership Meeting to give a brief update and hear from Project Grant recipient, **Racquel House** (SEL and Mindfulness Game Room). Racquel is a member of the SEL (Social Emotional Learning) team at Hollywood Park Elementary. She thanked everyone for making her dreams come true! Racquel was concerned about students after Covid because they forgot how to communicate. She used funds to create a Game Room where students could earn a half-hour pass to play games in the room with a partner of their choice. Racquel designed the Game Room to build interpersonal skills to help students problem solve more effectively. She reported that they have seen fewer referrals schoolwide.



From 2017 through 2023, the Florida DKG Educational Foundation has given a total of \$34,152.92 for 13 Professional Development Awards and 23 Educational Grants, for a total of 36 awards. These awards impacted approximately 2,551 students in 2022 and another 1,584 in 2023.



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, 2024, and March 31, 2025, are available online at www.fldkgef.org. Applications must be submitted by February 1, 2024. A tax-deductible donation can be made to the Florida DKG Educational Foundation at the same website.



Parliamentary Moment: Teachers are Leaders
Stephanie (Sam) King, PRP
Parliamentarian, Florida State Organization



“Great meetings take more time to plan than to present.”

Many teachers don’t want to ever preside over a DKG chapter business meeting, but they daily present in front of classroom.

We are members of DKG because the organization supports teachers and what we do every day- **Teach**. Teachers, by the nature of what we do, are leaders.

Definition of a Leader

“Simply put, a true leader leads by example, fostering strong relationships with individuals and teams alike and ensuring that all reach their full potential while, importantly, achieving organizational goals.”
Lindauer

Or could this be rewritten to define a Teacher:

“Simply put, a true teacher leads by example, fostering strong relationships with their students and teaching teams, ensuring that all reach their full potential while, importantly, achieving their greatest learning outcomes.” *s. king*

Let’s compare teaching to chairing a meeting

Teaching	Presiding
Teaching a class	Chairing a meeting
Class	Meeting
Student roster	Members
Meet daily with students	4 business meetings per year
Meet with school administration for updates	2 Chapter Executive Board meetings per year
Time period during the day	Call of the meeting (notice)
Lesson plan	Agenda
Keep the students attention	Keep the members attention
Encourage student participation	Encourage member participation
Homework	Committee (member) assignments
Student presentations	Committee reports
Grading homework	Motions
Student feedback	Member feedback
End of semester	End of officer term (2 years)
Review: how to improve the class the next semester	Review: for growth to become a school administrator, leader in other organizations (charitable, religious or civic), or move to higher positions in DKG such as District Director, State Committees, or as a DKG State Officer.

Chairing a great meeting takes the same skill set that it takes to teach a great class. A successful class comes about by many factors, but one key concept is that the greatest effort goes into the planning before the class. The same planning concept works for a successful meeting.

I made up my motto (top of the page) because one of my first meetings was not a great meeting. Since then I have always put more time into the planning for a meeting than it has taken to present the meeting.

If you would like to have me present, a parliamentarian training, or a question and answer session at one of your meetings, via the Zoom platform, email me at: gammanuking@gmail.com

Protect the rights of all members including: the majority, the minority, individual members, of those that are absent, and of the entire organization.



**Florida
State Organization**

Contribution Form

Checks or money orders and this completed form should be sent to:
DKG Florida State Organization Treasurer
Beverly Stagg
7407 Lillie Lane
Pensacola, FL 32526

Date: _____ Amount: _____

Payment by: CHECK _____ MONEY ORDER _____

Make checks or money orders payable to: **DKG Florida State**
 This contribution is designated for: (check one)

- Emergency Fund
- Scholarship
- Leadership Growth Seminar
- Legislation events – State and US Forum

GIFT IS FROM: _____
Name of individual or group Chapter

DONOR INFORMATION

Dr., Miss, Mrs., Ms. _____
 Mailing Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Email _____

(The above will appear on the notice sent to family or honoree.)

IN MEMORY OF _____

Send card to _____
 Mailing Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

IN HONOR OF

Dr., Miss, Mrs., Ms. _____
 Mailing Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

As directed by the Internal Revenue Service, it is my duty to inform you that this is not a tax-deductible contribution.



Getting Ready for the 2024 Florida Legislative Session: DKG Talks to YOUR Elected Representatives!

Many thanks to DKG members who shared their concerns related to women, children, and education with the State Legislative Committee this summer through online and in-person surveys! These concerns were relayed to several bipartisan legislators during the Virtual Meeting with Florida Legislators event on Wednesday, November 1, 2023. A day long series of conversations, sponsored by the Legislative Committee and moderated by Chair, **Vivian Posey** and US Forum Liaison, **Carrie Frye**, resulted in visits with 12 Senators, Representatives, and aides during the time when legislation for the upcoming session was being prepared. Key questions for the legislators centered on the increasing level of censorship of educators, the need for additional mental health services, safety on school campuses, and the alarming number of teacher vacancies in Florida.

DKG educators, (wearing red, of course!), were also represented in Tallahassee on December 12, 2023, when the Legislative Committee organized a day long series of in-person meetings with legislators. This was another opportunity for members to advocate on behalf of Florida’s educators, and to inform elected representatives about the work of DKG members in the state.



We are grateful to the legislators who took time to meet with us virtually on November 1st and in-person on December 12th and for the opportunity to discuss several new bills that have been proposed for the upcoming session that will protect children and strengthen public education.

As a result of these meetings, several legislators asked that we continue to keep them informed about any proposed legislation that our members consider harmful to educators and children. Members can do this individually by contacting their Representatives or Senators directly!

Florida House of Representatives at <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov>

Florida Senate at <https://www.flsenate.gov>

For a full report of DKG Day in the Capitol, see the next issue of the *Florida Rays*!





Get Ready to Attend the U.S. Forum 2024 National Legislative Seminar March 10-13, 2024!

**Dr. Vivian Posey, Southeast Regional Representative
U.S. Forum Steering Committee**

The U.S. Forum Steering Committee has been very busy planning for an exciting and informative National Legislative Seminar in Washington, D.C. on March 10-13, 2024. We hope you will join us for this event!

The National Legislative Seminar takes place at the Holiday Inn National Airport, Crystal City, just a short way from the sights and sounds of our nation's capital. You don't want to miss this opportunity to learn from experts on the key issues identified by DKG members and to discuss these issues with members from across the country and with your congressional representatives!

Registration for the full seminar is \$340.00 and includes all meals. You can register and pay online or download the registration form and pay by check. Go to www.dkgusforum.org to complete your registration and find out about reserving your room at the Holiday Inn National Airport Hotel.

A full schedule of engaging speakers and activities, both at the hotel and in Washington, is being planned for you. Here are a few highlights of the seminar, with more events to come:

- Strategies for Advocacy, including nationally renowned guest speaker Lisa Maatz.
- Improving Mental Health Services for All Americans, presented by Dr. Anita Everett, Director of the Center for Mental Health Services at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Agency (SAMHSA).
- A Wreath Laying Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Transportation provided.
- Panel on Improving Working Conditions for Teachers.
- An Evening with the Arts with Marjorie Mitzner, Director of National Museum of Art and D.C. President Tondra Odum.
- The Role of AI Systems in Today's Classrooms- Rob Weil, Educational Field Programs Director AFT.
- Pre-arranged visits with your congressional representatives and senators.

Don't miss this amazing opportunity! Make your plans now. Please feel free to contact Dr. Vivian Posey at vivposey@gmail.com if you have questions. I look forward to seeing you there.



FLORIDA JESSLYN MCBRIDE LEADERSHIP SEMINAR



**LEADERSHIP
SKILLS,
NETWORKING,
AND PERSONAL
GROWTH**

**WE LOVE
OUR DKG
LEADERS!**

Join us

June 16th-19th

at the Orlando



Marriott Lake Mary

Application deadline:

April 6, 2024



Learn more:

[dkgflorida.weebly.com/leadership-
committee](https://dkgflorida.weebly.com/leadership-committee)

Apply online:

<https://forms.gle/pGX2AzmGpuQBMcwj7>

Upcoming 2024 District Meetings

District I Meeting: January 20, 2024 With DKG, We Can Do It!

**Trinity United Methodist Church
120 West Park Avenue
Tallahassee, FL 32301**



**Sarah Watters
District I Director
dkgfldistrict1@gmail.com**

I recently read that the iconic “Rosie the Riveter” poster was developed less for recruitment and more to exhort already-hired women to work harder. These posters were placed in the workplace during wartime



to encourage and inspire these women in the role they needed to play. This reminds me of our current “Rosies” in the classroom and lecture halls. Education feels increasingly like a wartime effort. Rosies may also be chapter presidents who are working tirelessly to answer the SOS of their chapters.

With this crusader of can-do calling us to roll up our sleeves, please join us in the state capital on January 20, 2024, as we shout “With DKG, We Can Do It!” Need to Communicate with your collegiate members? You Can Do IT! We will have a session all about communicating with Gen Z. Renew your teaching certificate? You Can Do It! Active teachers will be able to earn an hour of ESE credit. FDLRS will be presenting an impactful training entitled, “Visual Supports” where participants will come away with hands-on ideas to use in their classrooms. With empowering sessions, food, and fellowship this is a meeting you do not want to miss. Online registration with Zelle payment is available or you can print and mail in your registration along with a check.

District II Meeting: March 2, 2024 Reaching for More in 2024.



**C.L. Overturf District Annex
1100 S 18th St.
Palatka, FL 32177**

**Kim Baggs
District II Director
kbaggs13@gmail.com**

District II’s meeting is scheduled for March 2. The theme “Reaching for More in 2024” originated from the hardship of the past few years in trying to regain our balance between work and home, sickness and health, and the need to reprioritize our lives. 2023 was deemed the Year of Me in our chapter based on the thought behind Muhammad Ali’s poem *Me, We*. There can be no we without me, just as there can be no me without we. We focused on taking care of ourselves and beginning to build momentum again to strengthen the “We” to build relevance, vitality, and sustainability: the concept behind “put your oxygen mask on before you help others put on theirs.”



As we approach 2024, we will see wishes instead of weeds! It’s time to reach for more! The artwork consists of dandelions, blue, and anything that makes your wishes come true! A continental breakfast will be available during registration from 8:00 - 8:30 AM. Breakout sessions will include the following:

- Mental Health: Managing Teacher Well Being,**
- Classroom Management: Positive Classroom Culture,**
- Florida B.E.S.T. Benchmarks: Best Practices,**
- Educational Leadership,**
- U.S. Forum, and more.**

Last, but not least, a catered luncheon will be provided by a local favorite, Peas and Carrots Catering.



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
 Florida State - District I Meeting

“With DKG We Can Do It!”

Saturday, January 20, 2024
 8:30-2:00 Eastern Standard Time
 Trinity United Methodist Church
 120 W Park Ave, Tallahassee, FL

8:30 Check-in, Breakfast & Baskets -9:00 General Meeting

One name per form. Feel Free to Copy This Form

Name _____ Chapter _____ District _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email _____
 Dietary Needs: _____ Accessibility Needs: _____

(Please check all that apply.)

- Member
- Current Chapter President
- Past Chapter President
- District Director of District
- Past District Director of District _____
- State Committee Member -name of Committee _____
- State Committee Chairman -name of Committee _____
- State Officer -Office(s) _____
- Past State President

(breakfast & luncheon are included in the registration fee)

Registration _____ **\$40.00** Check # _____

Send Completed Registration Form and Check no later than **December 30, 2023** to:

Elinor Mount-Simmons
317 Earl King Street
Apalachicola, FL 32320-2249

Make check payable to DKG District I

Friday Night Fun

Please Check to RSVP and further information will be sent.

- Staying overnight @ Doubletree
- JoEllen’s Restaurant for dinner @ 5:30 pm EST



2024 Florida DKG District II Meeting

Some See a Weed Others See a Wish... Reaching for More in 2024

Saturday, March 2, 2024
C.L. Overturf District Annex
1100 South 18th Street Palatka, Fl 32177

8:00-2:00
(Registration 8:00-8:30)



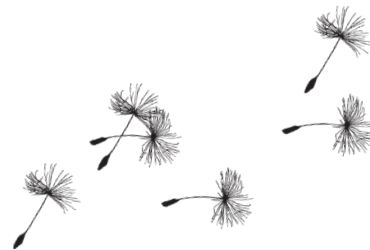
Name: _____ Chapter: _____ District: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please check all that apply:

- Member
- First time attending a District Meeting
- State Officer _____
- Current Chapter President
- District Director
- Past District Director
- Past Florida State President
- State Committee Chairman - Name of Committee _____
- State Committee Member - Name of Committee _____
- I would like to give a 2 minute report at the General Meeting
- Special Dietary Needs (Please specify) _____



Registration Fee 35.00 per person (includes Continental Breakfast, Luncheon, Registration + Favor)
Late Registration Fee 40.00 (must be postmarked by February 8, 2024)

Please make checks payable to Delta Kappa Gamma - District II Mtg
Send registration form and check to: Kim Baggs
148 Karen Court Palatka, Fl 32177
Phone: 386-916-1044



(Paypal, Venmo + Zelle payment options available upon request- Email registration forms to dkgbagladyz3@gmail.com)

Please Note: Photo Release - By your attendance at this event you are granting your permission to be filmed, videotaped, audiotaped or photographed by any means and are granting full use of your likeness, voice, and words without compensation.

Some See a Weed Others See a Wish... Reaching for More in 2024

Upcoming 2024 District Meetings

District III Meeting: February 3, 2024
Come with Me to DKG!

Highlands Church of Christ
5730 Lakeland Highlands Road
Lakeland, FL 33813
9:00 AM - 2:30 PM



Brenda Johnson
District III Director

bdjohnson
@tampabay.rr.com

Get ready for an EXPLOSION of new members to be celebrated this year at our District III Meeting on Saturday, February 3, 2024, from 9:00 AM -2:30 PM at the Highlands Church of Christ in Lakeland at 5730 Lakeland Highlands Road.

You'll want to meet your DKG friends there to celebrate our successes and pick up some tips on how to continue to increase our chapters' membership! You will love the workshops, the food, the prizes, and the fun we'll have together! Please reach out to your newest members now to invite them to join you for this exciting day. The Call for Workshops will be available soon, followed by the registration form. Please plan now to invite your new members, your seasoned members, and your members-to-be!

Plans are being made for a delightful evening the night before our meeting on Friday, February 2, 2023. You will NOT want to miss this event, so be on the lookout for information on the limited hotel rooms that will be available soon. Our **Lambda Chapter** can't wait to welcome you to Lakeland!



District IV Meeting: April 5 & 6, 2024
Come to our Jungle & Relax

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church
300 Malabar Road SW
Palm Bay, FL 32907



Vicky Biro & Debbie Phelps, Co-Directors
vbiro@cfl.rr.com
debbiephel@gmail.com

District IV invites you to "Come to our Jungle and Relax." Our get together begins on Friday evening, April 5th, from 5:00-9:00 PM with food, beverage, and a bunco game! Accommodations are available at Comfort Suites, 1175 Malabar Road, Palm Bay. Just take Exit 173 off I-95. Comfort Suites is located behind Texas Roadhouse and McDonalds. Remember to mention DKG Group when making your reservations.



Saturday's schedule on April 6th lasts from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM. We start off with a continental breakfast and lunch buffet provided by Texas Roadhouse. We have speakers and activities planned on Saturday for your enjoyment. All activities will include everyone, so don't worry about missing out on being in a break-out session.



We invite you to wear an animal theme shirt of your choice. We are asking attendees to bring a new small stuffed animal that will be used as the table centerpieces and later donated to the police/EMT to help children in crisis.



Florida DKG – District III Meeting

“Come with Me to DKG”

February 3, 2024
9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Highlands Church of Christ
5730 Lakeland Highlands Rd.
Lakeland, FL 33813

Registration Form Deadline: Saturday, December 31st

Please type or print one name per form:

Name _____ Chapter _____ District _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please list your current role(s) at the chapter and state levels of DKG.

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Registration: \$60.00 per person - \$70 Late registration window: January 1st-January 15th
(includes Morning Refreshments, Luncheon, Registration Packet, and Favors)

Send the registration form and check for \$60 payable to

Lambda Chapter of DKG to:

Bobbi Kelley
228 Whispering Oak Way
Auburndale, FL 33823
863-602-3352
bobbikelley10@gmail.com

Also for your consideration:

Reservations for **Friday night BINGO & dinner (\$20) at the Highlands Church of Christ (6:30 PM) on Feb. 2.

I would like to arrive on Friday afternoon, Feb. 2, and I am interested in information on **hotel accommodations.

**Reservations will be available by September 1st



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™

If you are arriving on Friday, Feb. 2, 2024, and need a room, call Holiday Inn South for a reservation, (863)606-1000 and ask for the block of rooms for DKG at Holiday Inn South in Lakeland, FL. Rooms are going FAST!

District III Friday Night FUN

Please plan to arrive in Lakeland on Friday, February 2, 2024, to get in on the fun with other DKG women as we get together to enjoy sandwiches, salad, desserts and lots of FUN and prizes!!!



“BINGO and Brownies”

Highlands Church of Christ

5730 Lakeland Highlands Road

6:30-8:45 p.m.

*\$20 - check to Delta Kappa Gamma-District III
or Cash App \$LambdaDKG*

Name _____ Cell phone _____

Chapter _____ Check # _____

\$20 may be paid by check or via Cash App (\$LambdaDKG)

To: Bobbi Kelley (863)670-2967

228 Whispering Oak Way

Auburndale, FL 33823

Postmark Deadline for registration: November 30, 2023



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™

Upcoming 2024 District Meetings

District V Meeting: March 16, 2024
Carnivale - Do More in '24

Le Meridien Dania Beach
1825 Griffin Road
Dania Beach, FL 33004
8:15 AM - 2:30 PM



Betty Bunnell,
Director
singshispraises
@comcast.net

You are invited to celebrate our multicultural diversity at our next District V meeting "Carnivale - Do More in '24" theme. Our venue is the new and beautiful Marriott owned Le Meridien Hotel & Convention Center at 1825 Griffin Road, Dania Beach.

We are in need of 3 more presenters for workshops to fill the A & B sessions listed below. To encourage the growth of membership in DKG you may want to include the following words in creating a workshop: community outreach, involvement, change, inclusion, travel, motivation as examples. Workshop proposal forms are available for the asking. Note schedule below:

8:15 -9:00 AM
Breakfast

9:00 -10:15 AM
Opening Session in Ballroom

10:30 -11:15 AM
New Presidents Training = Terry Stanilonis
Treasurers Workshop = Beverly Stagg

10:30 AM - 12:15 PM
Sessions A & B

12:30 - 2:00 or 2:30 PM
Lunch

Our multicultural theme will be enhanced with student dancers and student instrumentalists. Please be on the look out for students willing to share their talents with us. Note: Masks are optional, and we can represent the multicultural theme in colorful dress, and flair for music from the islands to our Central & South American neighbors. Viva DKG!

District VI Meeting: February 24, 2024
Unlocking the Power of Purpose

Florida SouthWestern State College
Charlotte Campus
26300 Airport Road
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM



District VI CoDirector
Barbara Davis & Mary Jo Holleran
babsdavis@comcast.net
mholleran8890@gmail.com

Please mark your calendars to attend "Unlocking the Power of Purpose" on Saturday, February 24, 2024, at the Charlotte County Campus of Florida South-Western State College where chapters in District VI will gather for a day of collaborating and sharing ideas about how our chapters fulfill some or all of the seven purposes of Delta Kappa Gamma. Please join us as we support and learn from each other.

The day's "whole group" approach will allow for individual small group sharing on topics such as running an efficient meeting, fundraising strategies, ideas for advocating for education, highlighting female leaders in education, creating a budget, and much more. We hope attendees will come away with ways to make their chapters even more vibrant and form a network of like-minded educators here in southwest Florida. On the menu for lunch will be Italian cuisine and a beautiful dessert bar for us to enjoy!

An optional Friday night dinner will be held at 6:30 PM on February 23 at F.M. Don's located at 201 W. Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda, FL 33950. If you plan to stay overnight on Friday, plan to stay at the Holiday Inn Express Punta Gorda, 9075 Mac Drive, Punta Gorda, FL 33950.



2024 Florida District V Meeting

Experience the diversity and excitement
of DKG at
Carnivale - Do More in '24!

MEETING INFORMATION

Date: March 16, 2024
Time: 8:15 am - 2:30 pm
Location: Le Meridien Dania Beach
1825 Griffin Road
Dania Beach, FL 33004
954-920-3500



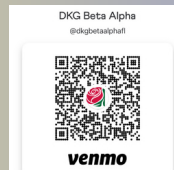
Dress to the theme!
Don't forget your mask!

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration must be postmarked by February 23, 2024
Member Registration includes light breakfast & lunch.
No refunds issued after March 1, 2024

___ Check or Money Order (payable to DKG Beta Alpha and mail in with form)
___ Venmo (Use @DKGBetaAlphaFL and email this form to Carol Ann Casey)

Mail this form and checks/money order to:
Carol Ann Casey
2211 NW 103rd Ave
Pembroke Pines, FL 33026
954-562-8948 caseyca.dkg@gmail.com



MEMBER INFORMATION

Please complete one form per member.

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

Please check and fill in all that apply:

___ Member ___ First time attendee ___ District Director
___ Past State President ___ Past District Director
___ Current Chapter President ___ Incoming Chapter President
___ Current Chapter Treasurer ___ Incoming Chapter Treasurer
___ State Officer or Personnel _____
___ State Committee Chair (Name of Committee) _____
___ State Committee Member (Name of Committee) _____
___ I would like to give a 2 minute report at the General Meeting.
___ I'm interested in presenting a workshop. Please send me more information.

Special Dietary Need (please list) _____

Additional Questions:
Email Betty Bunnell
singshispraises81@yahoo.com
754-281-7792

PHOTO RELEASE: By your attendance at this event you are granting your permission to be filmed, videotaped, audiotaped or photographed by any means and are granting full use of your likeness, voice and words without compensation.



2024 Florida District V Meeting

Come experience the diversity and excitement of DKG at Carnivale - Do More in '24!



WORKSHOP PROPOSAL

Each workshop will be 45 minutes long. There will be 2 sessions.

Session 1 - 10:30 - 11:15

Session 2 - 11:30 - 12:15

Presenter: _____ Chapter: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Workshop Title: _____

Which session are you available for?

_____ Session 1 only

_____ Session 2 only

_____ Either session

Brief description of your workshop: _____

AV equipment may not be available in all rooms. Please specify if you will need any equipment and we will try to accommodate you. You must provide your own laptop.

Deadline to submit proposal: January 12, 2023

Send proposal to: Betty Bunnell
 12650 SW 6th Street #107
 Pembroke Pines, FL 33027
 754-281-7792
 singshispraises81@yahoo.com

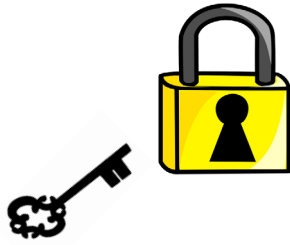
Additional Questions:
 Email Betty Bunnell
 singshispraises81@yahoo.com
 754-281-7792

Florida DKG – District VI Meeting

“Unlocking the Power of Purpose”

February 24, 2024
8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Florida SouthWestern State College
Charlotte Campus
26300 Airport Rd.
Punta Gorda, FL 33950



Registration Form Deadline: Saturday, February 10

Please type or print one name per form:

Name _____ Chapter _____ District _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please list your current role(s) at the chapter and state levels of DKG.

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Registration: \$60.00 per person

(includes Continental Breakfast, Luncheon, Dessert Bar, Registration Packet, and Favors)

Send the registration form and check for \$60 payable to
Delta Kappa Gamma – District VI no later than February 10 to:

Mary Jo Holleran
54 Par View Terrace
Rotonda West, FL 33947
941-830-0842
dkgdistrictvi@gmail.com

Also for your consideration:

- I plan to attend the **Friday night dinner at F.M. Don's in Punta Gorda at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 23.**

201 W. Marion Avenue
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

- I plan to stay at the **Holiday Inn Express Punta Gorda on Friday night, Feb. 23.**

9075 Mac Drive
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Sharing Chapter Experiences

Alpha Omega Chapter



Creating a "Buddy Culture" requires the collective effort of parents, educators, teachers, students, stakeholders, and community members, working together for a more peaceful and better world.

Lovely Sheridan

Buddy Ambassador's Founder and Author.
Tampere Finland

Above is Alpha Omega Chapter member **Lovely Sheridan** at DKG's International Conference held in Tampere, Finland, this past summer. She presented her successful Buddy Ambassador (BA) Program which promotes kindness, empathy, compassion, generosity, and inclusion in the formative years of school-aged kids through student-led projects. It is aimed at encouraging children to spread kindness, embrace inclusiveness, and treat others the way they would like to be treated.

The BA Program is student-led and focused on the formative years, because we believe that the values that are inculcated in children during their formative years are what they will most likely embrace and act on as they grow. We also believe that having children empower each other, and be directly responsible for their behavior will affect greater change. With this early intervention program, children will grow up to be more responsible, compassionate, and empathetic individuals who will be and do much good to our communities and world.

Since the inception of the program, Buddy Ambassadors have placed over one hundred benches in

schools in Florida and the Caribbean. BA Founder, Lovely Sheridan, a DKG member from District V, who presented her successful program in Finland this past summer, has now partnered with her local chapter to introduce the Buddy Ambassadors Program, and place more Buddy Benches in Schools. The chapter recently placed their first Buddy Bench at Palmetto Elementary, a school in West Palm Beach, Florida, and is working on placing more. The benches are sponsored by local organizations and individuals, and are created by Jeff Industries, a local Non-Profit.

Ms. Sheridan's goal is to partner with as many DKG chapters all over the country to push this initiative. In 2019, she received the prestigious Educator of the Year Award in Innovation, for the BA program. To learn more, go to: www.buddyambassadors.com.



Above is a photo of Ms. Sheridan, founder of the Buddy Ambassador Program, introducing the students with new Buddy Ambassadors at Palmetto Elementary in Palm Beach County, along with their Buddy Bench at their school. She was assisted by Alpha Omega Chapter President, **Jody Steward**, in presenting certificates and pins to the new ambassadors.



Sharing Chapter Experiences

Big Bend Coordinating Council



The Big Bend Coordinating Council (BBCC) of Delta Kappa Gamma was pleased to contribute \$150.00 to the International Rescue Committee to be used to purchase school uniforms for new students attending R. Frank Nims Middle School in Tallahassee, Florida.



Pictured above from left to right are the grateful recipients of the International Rescue Committee: Rose Lamensdorf, Casework Supervisor, and Rose Achar, Community Sponsorship Coordinator, who send their hearty thanks to the women of Delta Kappa Gamma's Big Bend Coordinating Council.

Gamma Nu Chapter



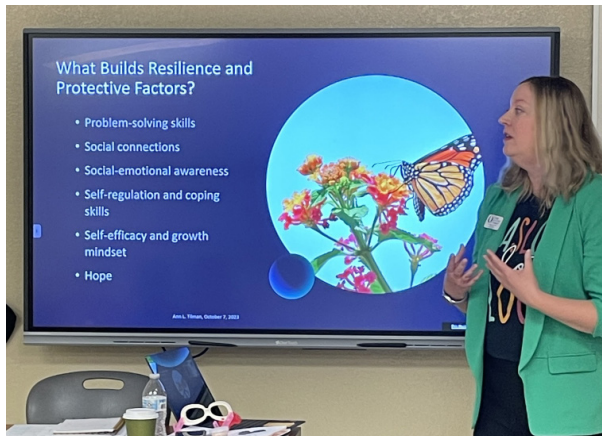
Gamma Nu sponsored our annual chapter literacy workshop, Cultivating Literacy, on October 7, 2023. Chapter and community members were invited and attended. Eligible participants earned three hours of inservice credits. **Dr. Jackie Greene's** interactive keynote presentation was "Sewing the Seeds of Literacy, Changing Lives Forever." Breakout sessions on Dyslexia and Childhood Trauma rounded out a morning of literacy and learning.



Displays from Imagination Library, Books A Million, Boys and Girls Club of Charlotte County, Gamma Nu Book Club, and Gamma Nu Chapter were available for attendees to browse.

Lizzie the Literacy Bus and a healthy continental breakfast were included. It was a workshop filled with interactive, collaborative learning.





Our Gamma Nu Chapter meeting on October 18, 2023, planned by our chapter legislative committee was a Q&A session and discussion with Charlotte County School Board Members, Kim Amontree and John LeClair. The discussion began with questions by **Jackie Greene, Barb Davis, and Martha Bireda**. It was then opened to members to ask questions and voice concerns. Questions that were asked and issues discussed were teacher retention and morale, mental health, safety, attendance, and parental rights. It was informative and could have lasted much longer than our time allowed.

Mu Chapter



Mu Chapter member, **Sharon Autry**, was just named as her school's Teacher of the Year. She is a media specialist at Inverness Middle School in

Inverness, Florida. Sharon was just inducted into Mu Chapter of FLDKG in May of 2023. Please join our chapter in congratulating Sharon Autry for becoming Teacher of the Year at Inverness Middle School.



Beta Sigma Chapter

Beta Sigma's theme for our Veterans Day meeting was to recognize, honor, and thank our Veterans.

Marilyn Ferraris served 1954-1956 in the Women's Army Corp. Marilyn's musical talent placed her in the All Women Army Band playing the flute. Her group brought many entertaining memories to the troops. The 20+ active members in attendance wrote thank you notes to service members serving in the Middle East thanking them for their service. Members present also gave tribute to their family members who served in various branches of the military

Pi Chapter



During the Pi Chapter meeting on August 26th at Brockway Memorial Library in Miami Shores, **Karen Gant**, an active classroom teacher, put out an all-call for volunteers to help mentor young ladies in her life

skills (L.I.F.E.) project. **Sharon Wallen** stepped up first and is currently helping Ms. Gant and her fourth grade class at Lake Stevens Elementary School. Ms. Gant's comments include, "Ms. Wallen is amazing." and "This is DKG in action."



Pi Chapter President, **Karen Boyd**, sent out a positive message stating that this is the perfect way to show that we are relevant.

Delta Kappa Chapter

For the second year, the Delta Kappa Chapter selected the Toys for Tots program for their community involvement project, wanting to help spread Christmas cheer to the children of Franklin County. The program's coordinator, Tristen Foley, attended the November meeting and gave an informative presentation of the program, sharing its history both nationally and locally. She also gave us a tour of the headquarters, which happened to be next door to our meeting room, and we were able to see the many age groups that benefit from the toy donations.

Although Toys for Tots gathers and distributes toys for children of all ages, Foley had asked our chapter to focus on babies and teens, two age groups

she stated that don't tend to get as many donations as other ages. Since members were informed of this prior to the meeting, they came to the meeting armed with board games, stacking toys, puzzles, paint sets, makeup kits, and a plethora of other fabulous gifts any baby and any teenager would be delighted to see under their Christmas tree. Twenty toys were presented to Foley, who is pictured below on the left. **Chapter President Elinor Mount-Simmons**, also pictured below on the far right, commented that several members who were absent would also be donating, and this addition would push our total to 30 toys for Franklin County's babies and teens.

Elinor also mentioned volunteers were needed to help when the toys were distributed, and several members eagerly signed up to help. She thanked Foley for the presentation and her DKG sisters for their donations and volunteerism.

Beta Omega and Beta Iota Joint Chapter Meeting

Beta Omega invited Beta Iota to attend their regularly scheduled meeting on December 9, 2023. After singing Christmas carols and playing a group led game, they separated to hold their respective chapter meetings. They reunited for the sale of Holiday Bazaar items to benefit their Take Stock in Children Scholarship with the Pinellas County Education Association followed by fellowship and a catered luncheon.



THE ARTS



Florida Artist Featured in Betty Thornton Arts Exhibition 2023:

Janeice Smith, Gamma Iota Chapter



Janeice Smith began her teaching career in her hometown of Nashville, Tennessee in 1976. After graduating from Belmont University in Nashville, she taught fourth grade in a private school there and three years later opened her own private child development center for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years. During that time, she collaborated with the faculty of the special needs program at Vanderbilt to successfully mainstream students with special needs in full or part time childcare and after school programs. Seventeen years later, she retired from the business end of education and returned to the classroom as a fourth-grade public school teacher. Her Master's Degree in Education was earned in 2002 from Cumberland University. In 2003, she moved to Florida and completed her career teaching fifth grade in the tiny fishing village of Cedar Key. She joined DKG in 2004, Gamma Iota Chapter, served as Chapter President 2009-2011, and retired in 2016. She remains active in her chapter and attended several district meetings and state conventions.

Upon retirement, Janeice rekindled her passion for crafting, sewing, and entertaining. She made her first quilt, a sports jersey, in 2018 while recovering from breast cancer. Her oldest daughter had saved all her son's jerseys and asked her mother to make a quilt using them for his graduation. After that, she was

hooked! It was extremely rewarding to remember the fond times watching her grandson play sports as she quilted by hand those jerseys. Thus, every quilt she designs holds a special meaning. For her daughter who lives in Tennessee, she made a quilt from squares of prints of her grandchildren's school artwork. She made a breast cancer quilt to auction for breast cancer awareness and one of her Florida Gator quilts sold for \$800 at silent auction for a Florida school district fundraiser. Making baby quilts are a favorite, and this will be her second year sending quilts to American military soldiers in Germany who have babies at Christmas.

Janeice loves to travel and enjoys buying fabric from all over the world to use in her quilts. Since she donates for a cause or otherwise gives her quilts away, she can never have too much fabric! She prefers to hand quilt vs. machine quilt and often makes her own patterns and templates, so that each quilt is unique.

Janeice spends many hours tracing her ancestry and has recently applied for membership in the Florida Mayflower Society since discovering her twelfth great-grandfather was a Mayflower passenger and signer of the Mayflower Compact. She is also active in her local chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution, DAR, and loves to go to estate sales. She lives in Newberry, Florida, with her husband, Greg who is a true Florida native. They have two daughters, one son, four amazing grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

Whether it be sewing, quilting, making jewelry, crafting, painting, tracing ancestry, or entertaining, it is genuinely relaxing to just go out to her She Shed, look at what is there, and then decide, "What do I want to create today?"



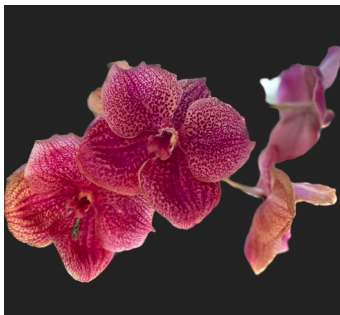


DKG International Gallery of Art

Congratulations to four Florida members whose artwork was selected for the DKG International Gallery of Art! The DKG International Arts and Humanities Jury thanks them for being among the DKG Gallery of Fine Arts entrants of the August 15 – September 15, 2023, submission period.



Priscilla Humay's Mixed Media pieces, "Prickly Pear No. 3 Fiesta," and "Prickly Pear No. 2," have been accepted into the DKG Fine Arts Gallery. Since April of 2019, Priscilla of Palm Coast, Florida, has been a member of **Gamma Gamma Chapter**.



Jody Steward of Lake Worth, Florida, has been a member of **Alpha Omega Chapter** since May of 2013. She was recently notified that two of her photographs were selected by the jury.

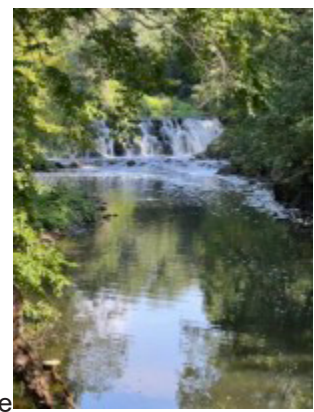


The orchid is titled, "Simply Beautiful," and the grassy area photo is titled, "Soon to Be No More" because the golf course behind their home has been sold to a developer who

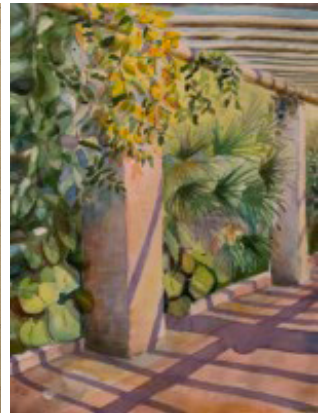
plans to put condos on it.



Susan Salesses's photographs, "Hello, Llama" and "Bronx Zoo Waterfall" have been accepted into DKG'S Gallery of Art. Since November of 1989, Susan of Clearwater, Florida, has been a DKG member, and currently she is **Beta Iota's Chapter President**.



Beth Werner's Watercolors, "Key Biscayne Lighthouse," and "Fairchild Shadows," have been accepted into the DKG Fine Arts Gallery. Since October of 1989, Beth of Pinecrest, Florida, has been a member of Omicron Chapter.

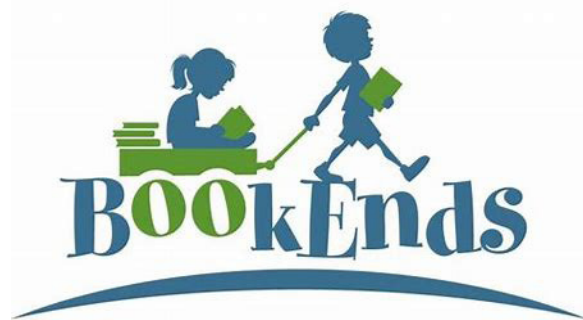


DKG International unveiled the new DKG Fine Arts Gallery in mid-November, and their work will be displayed in the gallery for six months, after which it will be archived for two years.

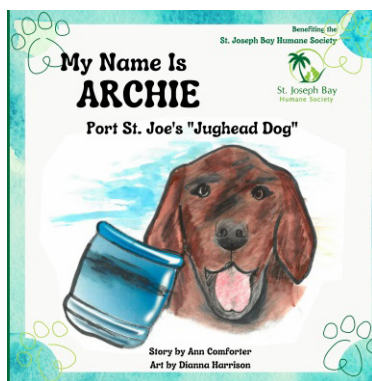
Another opportunity for showcasing art work is at the DKG International 2024 Convention or 2025 Conference Expo. If anyone is interested in participating in either of these events, please complete the Google form that will be available in the Spring of 2024 on the DKG website under the convention page.

Members are encouraged to submit additional works during the submission period from January 15 – February 15, 2024. Florida has had great interest in the Art Gallery and considers it to be an especially important venture for the Society.

Congratulations to Priscilla Hurnay, Jody Stewart, Susan Salesses, and Beth Werner for their accomplishments and recognition!



My Name is Archie: Port St. Joe's "JUGhead Dog"



**by Ann Comforter
Beta Beta Chapter**

My Name is Archie: Port St. Joe's "JUGhead Dog" is a true story written about an 18 month old Catahoula who had the misfortune of getting an automatic feeder jug stuck on his head.

He caught the attention of the entire city with his ability to escape capture. For over three weeks, Archie could not eat or drink and refused to be captured. Staff from the St. Joseph Bay Humane Society made daily searches, and they received assistance from the Port St. Joe Police Department, South Gulf Fire and Rescue, Animal Control, and enlisted the neighborhood of North Port St. Joe in the search. Finally, he was spotted under a dilapidated house, and a humane society staff member was willing to crawl under the house and get control of him. He was wrapped in a blanket and taken to the vet where it was discovered that he was dehydrated, had a heart murmur, bacterial infections, and stomach issues.

Archie wouldn't look at anyone and was very distrustful of the staff. Being a member of the

Board of Directors of the St. Joseph Bay Humane Society, I was granted access to see him. Just the mere sight of him broke my heart because he looked just like a Catahoula I had 20 years ago. Since I cooked for my other three dogs, I began taking breakfast to him every morning at 7:00 AM which was chicken cooked with liver, sweet potatoes, and rice. His stomach issues gradually improved, but he wouldn't look at any of the staff and wouldn't eat in front of anyone.



Archie became a Facebook celebrity with over 5,000 followers from across the country, and he was the face of the shelter. Over \$4,000 was donated for his medical care in less than two weeks. All of the profits from Ann Comforter's book, ***My Name is Archie***, go to the Humane Society as a thank you to the staff who worked so carefully and diligently to take care of him and bring him back to life. The profits are used to benefit the animals in the shelter.



The beautiful illustrations were donated by a long time local artist, Diana Harrison. The production costs, formatting, and editing were donated by a board member, so everything is pure profit. Two years ago Ann adopted Archie. On October 14, 2023, ARCHIE FEST was held to celebrate 5 years of Archie and his contributions to the St.

Joseph Bay Humane Society.

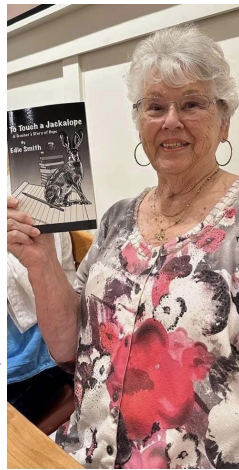
Ann retired from the Gulf County School System in 2013 after 33 years as the music, theatre, and guitar teacher. In 2019, she retired from the First United Methodist Church after 11 years as the Music Director. She loves Delta Kappa Gamma and currently serves as the State Chair of the Membership/Expansion Committee. In the past, Ann served as Chapter President of Beta Beta and District I Director.

My Name is Archie: Port St. Joe's "JUGhead Dog" is available for purchase online at Lulu for \$24.01.

To Touch a Jackalope: A Teacher's Story of Hope

by Edie Smith
Past State President
1993-1995

Edie Smith, a member of **Gamma Upsilon Chapter** in Sarasota and a 43 year member of the Florida State Organization, has published her first book, ***To Touch a Jackalope: A Teacher's Story of Hope***. Edie is a 30 year veteran English teacher in the public school system.



Edie writes her book on teaching at a time when negativity about the education system is a daily occurrence in the media and when few want to believe that anything positive is happening in the classroom today. "***To Touch a Jackalope*** is a recollection of thoughts, feelings, and experiences that, hopefully, will touch the heart and tickle the funny bone of those who read it, spanning the years between the 1960s and 1990s," said Edie.

"What is written in my book is not new," continued Edie, "It is not astute. It is not earth-shattering; however, it is a real affirmation that there are many excellent teachers in the classrooms today putting in valuable time and energies to let kids know they do count in today's society. It is a story that will, hopefully, make the best and the brightest want to enter the teaching profession in spite of the pitfalls."

When asked why the price of her book is only \$5.00, Edie replied, "I wanted to get the message in my book out to as many readers as possible, not to make a profit. It was time for a book to be written telling teachers it is an honorable thing to be a teacher for, after all, it is the profession that teaches all other professions. It is a profession that inspires others to aspire to greater heights." The book can be purchased online through Amazon.

Edie served as president of Gamma Upsilon Chapter for two bienniums, state Starwalk chairman, presenter at the Jess McBride Leadership Seminar, State Corresponding and Recording Secretaries, and State President 1993-1995. During her state presidency, Edie traveled to 97 of the 102 chapters and worked tirelessly on the international level to bring a European Region to fruition. In 1985, Edie was Florida's Teacher of the Year. She was a member of the International Leadership Class of 1989.

Poetry

The Starfish Story Poem by Loren Easley

An old man had a habit of early morning walks on the beach. One day, after a storm, he saw a human figure in the distance moving like a dancer. As he came closer, he saw that it was a young woman and she was not dancing but was reaching down to the sand, picking up a starfish, and very gently throwing it into the ocean.

"Young lady," he asked, "Why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?"

"The sun is up, and the tide is going out, and if I do not throw them in they will die."

"But young lady, do you not realize that there are miles and miles of beach and starfish all along it? You cannot possibly make a difference."

The young woman listened politely, paused and then bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the sea, past the breaking waves, saying,

"It made a difference for that one."

Before lunch at the Fall Executive Board Meeting, **Nancy Marmesh, Second Vice-President of the Florida State Organization**, read the above inspirational story poem and gave the following reflection:

As we reflect on the Starfish Poem, the message is clear.

Whether we are advocating for our family, our friends, our students or our community, success will often come in small steps.

We have to be willing to do the work. When we are actively engaged, we need to understand that we may make a difference by helping one starfish at a time.

The challenges are great but the possibilities are endless.



DKGIEF: Women Honoring Women

International Women's Day is March 8, 2024. In conjunction with this event, DKGIEF is launching a fundraising initiative to support our mission of educating the world. Will you consider making a \$25 donation to honor a woman who has had a significant impact on your life or career?

For each \$25 donation received between March 1, 2024, and April 15, 2024, DKGIEF will send the donor a specially designed card and pin to personally present to the woman being honored.

The UN established [International Women's Day](#) in 1977 as a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic, or political. It is celebrated yearly in many countries worldwide and focuses on a theme. The 2024 theme "#inspire inclusion" is focused on closing the digital divide and increasing the representation of women and girls in science and technology. technology.

DKG programs support the aspirations and achievements of women from around the world.

DKGIEF, through its philanthropy, supports future generations of women across the globe in their professional journey to become leaders in their communities.

By donating to recognize someone who made a difference in your life, you will be making a difference in the lives of many.

Donations may be made to any of the nine DKGIEF funds.

- Online Donation
 - Go to the [DKGIEF Donate webpage](#) (go to DKG.org>DKGIEF>Donate)
 - Click on the fund you select for your donation
 - Follow directions on the page to make a credit card donation
 - Be sure to select “Yes” under the question “Is this donation a tribute?”
- Mailed Donation
 - Complete and print [Form 43](#) (go to DKG.org>MyDKG>Forms>Contribution>Form 43)
 - Mail Form 43 and a check made to DKGIEF, with the designated fund listed on the memo line.

Donations must be submitted or postmarked no later than April 15, 2024.



Membership/Expansion Committee: Recruit- Retain- Support- Reinstate



Ann Comforter, Chair

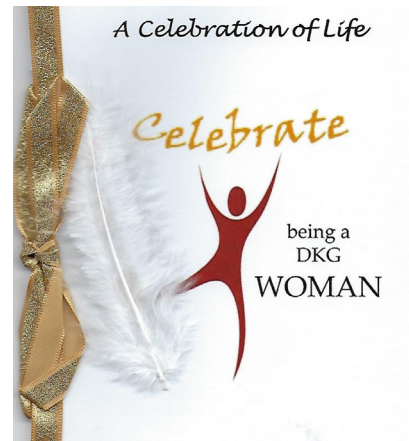
I am excited and honored to be a part of the Membership/Expansion Committee and look forward to serving you during this biennium. Your committee members are:

- Ann Comforter (I)**
- Sharon Joca (II)**
- Beth Hess (III)**
- Pat Johnson (IV)**
- Loverly Sheridan (V)**
- Shirley Rainwater (VI)**
- Mary Jo Holleran (VI) Consultant.**

The purpose of the Membership/Expansion Committee is to be the liaison between International, State, and local chapters. It is our desire to communicate frequently, so we are asking our district directors to get in touch with their chapter presidents and request the name and email address of their membership chair, so we can produce a database within the state. Please send your district, chapter, name of membership chair, and email address to anncomforter@gmail.com.

Our goals for the 2023-2025 biennium are:

- To become mentors to each chapter's membership chair by helping with the recruitment of new members and to find ways to retain our present membership.
- To communicate with chapter presidents to offer support, guidance, resources and build connections.
- To research ways to establish a virtual chapter in Florida to better serve our members who have lost their chapter, moved away, or became physically unable to attend regular chapter meetings, but they want to remain a member of Florida's DKG.



Nettie Ruth Brown
Gamma Gamma Chapter
District II
December 2, 2023
St. Augustine, Florida



Nettie Brown, 93, of St. Augustine, Florida, passed away peacefully on December 2, 2023, at W. Wells Nursing Home. Fifty-four minutes later she was joined in death by her sister, Betty Madden, from Anderson, South Carolina.

Nettie was born on February 11, 1930, in Baxter, Florida. In 1936, she began her education by walking to a one-room school-house, The Knabb School. With the opening of The Taylor School in 1937, she began second grade and graduated from The Taylor School in 1948. In 1952, Nettie graduated from Berry College located in Rome, Georgia, with a BS in Home Economics. After

graduation, she completed graduate studies at Cornell University and the University of Florida.

Nettie's professional career began in Athens, Indiana, as the Assistant Home Demonstration Agent. During this time, 4-H Clubs were held in the schools, so she would go to the schools and teach classes in growing crops, canning, preserving food, food preparation, sewing, and dairy farming. In addition, she was the 4-H Youth Program Leader.

In 1960, Nettie moved to St. Augustine, Florida, as the St. Johns County Home Demonstration Agent. She served as the Acting Extension Director of St. Johns County, St. Johns County Extension Home Economist, and the St. Johns County 4-H Youth Program Leader. During her career, Nettie had many state and national winners in the 4-H program. Nettie's professional career earned the title of "Organizer Extraordinaire!."

Nettie served in a host of leadership roles in local, state, and national organizations. She was an influential woman in the community and a force for good. Nettie was an Honorary Member of Florida's Gamma Gamma Chapter for 47 years. Nettie's dedication to her career has been recognized with a variety of professional awards.

**Elizabeth Africano Greer
Gamma Gamma Chapter
District II
November 11, 2023
Saint Augustine, Florida**

Betsy Greer passed away peacefully on November 11, 2023, at her nursing home in St. Augustine, Florida, surrounded by her two daughters. She was born on October 23, 1937, in Jersey City, New Jersey.



Betsy grew up in Caldwell, New Jersey, and graduated from Grover Cleveland High School in 1955. In 1959, she received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Douglass College, in the Department of Education in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Upon graduation from Douglass, Betsy moved to Long Beach, California, for her first teaching job, where she then met her beloved husband as a young Naval officer. George swept Betsy off her feet, proposing, "Marry me and see the world," and so she did on January 28, 1960. From Panama, California, Colorado, and Japan, to Virginia, they raised the girls with a wealth of culture, adventure, love of community, family, and God.

She furthered her love of education, receiving her Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Northern Colorado in 1979, and a Certificate in Administration from the University of Virginia in 1982, at George Mason University.

Betsy's love for teaching expanded far beyond the classroom into her early retirement from Fairfax County Public Schools, Virginia, when she and George moved to their forever home in St. Augustine, Florida, 1992. Betsy continued to substitute teach, became an active member of Trinity Episcopal Parish, served as a Guardian Ad Litem for St. Johns County, was a contributing and life-long

member of Delta Kappa Gamma, played weekly bridge, and traveled extensively with her beloved George, visiting most of the European countries, southern Africa, almost all of South America and the Caribbean, along with numerous road trips to spend treasured time with their grandchildren and daughters. Her favorite destination over the last decade would be the three weeks spent each year for Christmas in Paradise Island in the Bahamas.

**Lois Tedder Hunt
Alpha Rho Chapter
District II
May 13, 2023
Ocala, Florida**



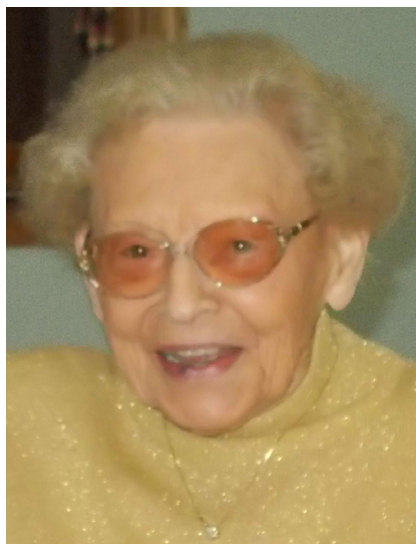
On May 13, 2023, Lois Hunt, loving wife and mother, passed away peacefully at age 88. She was born on April 26, 1935, in Whiteville, North Carolina. She grew up closely involved in New Hope Baptist Church where she led the children's choir.

Lois went on to earn her bachelor's degree from St. Andrews Presbyterian College before moving to Florida, where she began her teaching career. She had a passion for education, working tirelessly to strengthen the skills of her students and prepare them for success in the business

world. She went on to earn her MBA at the University of Central Florida and continued her teaching at Central Florida Community College preparing students for the world of business. After her retirement, Lois continued to work with children in Good News Club, sharing her foundation of faith with the younger generations. She was a devoted member of First Baptist Church of Ocala as well as an active member of Ocala Christian Women's Connection.

Professionally, Lois was inducted into Delta Kappa Gamma on December 6, 1968. She served as chapter treasurer from 1980-1985, and chapter president from 1988-1990.

Maxine Smith
Alpha Zeta Chapter
October 18, 2022
Glenville, West Virginia



Maxine Smith was initiated into DKG in Alpha Theta Chapter in Cocoa, Florida, in 1965. She served as Florida's 25th State Organization President from 1981-1983. Her artistic, receptive, energetic, and collaborative personality is reflected in the development of her theme, Together Toward Tomorrow. She taught Home Economics in Indiana, West Virginia, and Ohio prior to teaching English

in Melbourne, Florida. She was an active member and mentor of Alpha Zeta in West Virginia.

Nancy Griffing Tokarz
Beta Theta Chapter
District III
September 13, 2023
Land O'Lakes, Florida



Nancy Tokarz, age 67, departed from this world on September 13, 2023. She was born on August 9, 1956, in Bridgeport, Connecticut. She met her husband Edward Tokarz at the Children's Home, a foster home in Tampa. Nancy and Ed were married for 44 years, and they were great parents and examples for their children and the community.

Her life was a testament to unwavering love, kindness, and resilience. As a mother, Nancy was the embodiment of selflessness. She nurtured, guided, and supported her children through life's ups and downs, always putting their needs before her own. Her warm embrace and comforting words were a source of solace and strength for her family.

Nancy loved life in many ways—particularly she was a fan of the USF Bulls where she was a graduate, and a huge fan of the Tampa Bay Rays. Most of all, she was a fan of pandas which were her favorite animal, and she had a collection to prove it.

Nancy was an active member of her community. She volunteered her time and resources to various charitable organizations, demonstrating her compassionate nature and desire to make the world a better place. This was shown through working in elementary education and special education for 40 years. On May 2, 1993, Nancy joined DKG. She was an active member of Beta Theta Chapter in Tampa for 40 years.

Linda Louise Wunderly
Phi Chapter
District I
October 25, 2023
Cottondale, Florida



Sadly, Linda Louise Wunderly passed away suddenly at Jackson Hospital on October 25, 2023. She was born in Miami, Florida, on March 22, 1949, and moved to the Panhandle in 1977.

Linda was an elementary school teacher for 28 years at Cottondale Elementary School and Kate M. Smith Elementary School in Chipley. She was a member of Eastside Baptist Church.

Since becoming a DKG member in September of 2006, Linda has served as past president of Phi Chapter. From 2018-2020, she was co-director of District I along with Kathy Diesner.

Florida Rays

Members are encouraged to email information to be used in the **Florida Rays** to Bonnie Kelley at MuStateEditor@gmail.com

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



Dates to Remember

DKG FL State Scholarship Application
www.dkgflorida.weebly.com
Deadline: January 15, 2024

District I Meeting: January 20, 2024
Trinity United Methodist Church
Tallahassee, Florida

Virtual Rally with Florida Legislators: January 24, 2024
8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Registration required for full or part day.
No charge to participate.

Florida DKG Educational Foundation/Grant & Award
<https://www.fldkgef.org/grant--award-information.html>
Deadline: February 1, 2024

DKG International Scholarship Application
https://www.dkg.org/DKGSI/DKGIEF/Funds/Scholarship_Fundaspix
Deadline: February 1, 2024

District III Meeting: February 3, 2024
Highlands Church of Christ
Lakeland, FL

District VI Meeting: February 24, 2024
Florida SouthWestern State College
Punta Gorda, FL

District II Meeting: March 2, 2024
C.L. Overturf District Annex
Palatka, FL

District V Meeting: March 16, 2024
LeMeridien Dania Beach
1825 Griffin Road
Dania Beach, FL 33004

Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar
Deadline April 6, 2024

District IV Meeting: April 6, 2024
Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church
Palm Bay, FL

DKG International Convention: July 9 - 13, 2024
National Harbor, Maryland - Gaylord National,
Washington, D.C. Area

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

Florida DKG Educational Foundation on Facebook
www.facebook.com/FLDKGEF

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