

## All I Can Say is, "Wow. Just Wow!"

Tracey Keim, Alpha Chi Chapter  
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Now in my third year of membership in **Alpha Chi Chapter**, my first state experience was the 2023 State Convention in Lake Mary. If you attended, you might remember me as Rosie the Riveter as I shared Friday night about Honor Flight West Florida. Saturday perhaps you participated in the Green Devil's Closet presentation that included "CLOSET-O" to win prizes. I stood tall in standing in for our **Chapter President, Claudia McIvor**, for the Saturday evening ceremonies.



From the moment I arrived, I felt welcomed. **State President, Terry Stanilonis**, happened to be in the hotel lobby when I walked in. Her hug made me feel like I was at home. As I looked around the hotel, I saw my beautiful, smiling sisters. They came in every shape and size, a bouquet of class and commitment to our craft and each other. Though I hadn't met any of them before that Friday, I knew that I was right where I wanted to be and should be!



The weekend was a whirlwind of activity from arrival until departure. An activity was included for everyone. Along the way, women introduced themselves, welcomed others, asked questions, and offered answers! It was a delight to see the arts and crafts displays. So much to learn from others! The location was perfect as far as service, location, and food.

There was lots of laughter, chatter, and singing. Perhaps the chorus was most surprising. Hearing the voices and piano, seeing the bodies swaying, and even joining hands with hundreds of others while singing **The Delta Kappa Gamma Song** was stunning. Let's not forget the fashions worn proudly by the classy members and leadership!

To brush shoulders with women with such accomplishments and to learn of their contributions to education made me hold my own head higher. The history of DKG made me realize I am part of something much greater- an organization that is global. DKG is a place I can begin to grow stronger and bloom brighter. The commitment to the sisterhood is inspiring. It is real. DKG is sincere in thoughts, words, actions, and deeds.

Congratulations to the committee who planned it. Kudos to those of you who attended and welcomed me to the bouquet of red roses. I look forward to attending more conferences, including international.

I will stand tall with each of you and look to help those who want to blossom! It was a terrific experience. It made me GLOW and GROW. I came back rejuvenated, proud, and determined.



## 2023 - 2025 Florida State Officers



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## DKG International Educators Foundation Recipient: Deborah James



On June 8, 2023, it was announced that **Deborah James** of **Beta Sigma Chapter** in Florida received a Cornetet Individual Professional Development Award in the amount of \$795. She plans to use her award to attend the "Innovative Schools Summit."

We are pleased that a member from our state has received assistance to enhance her professional expertise. The DKG International Educators Foundation encourages all educators, members, and non-members, who need professional development assistance to check the Foundation website for the Cornetet Individual Professional Development Award information and application. Encourage them to apply, as did **Deborah James** of Indialantic, Florida.

## Florida DKG Education Foundation Recipient: Darby Kaye Barfield

A 2022 FLDKGEF grant recipient, **Darby Kaye Barfield**, took the course "Counseling Children with Sexual Trauma" to assist students living in homes affected by addiction. The course provided skills and resources to help guide students through feelings of anger, resentment and isolation. Darby expressed her gratitude to FLDKGEF for providing the financial support which allowed her to receive training that will help her provide assistance to students for years to come.



## Recipient: Doreen Alvarez

Florida educator **Doreen Alvarez**, an academic coach at Peace River Elementary, received the 2022 FLDKGEF Professional Development Award to attend the "Teaching Learning Coaching Conference 2022." Unfortunately, Doreen was not able to attend the TLC Conference due to Hurricane Ian. The Foundation Directors agreed that Doreen may use the funds to attend the conference in Orlando in October of 2023.







## Florida DKG State President’s Message: A Ribbon of Legacy



Thinking back to the night I was installed as state organization president, I recall hearing murmurings from the audience as **Florida State Organization President Roxanne Berger** announced that the pin she was affixing to my lapel was the same pin that belonged to **Past State Organization President Merle Jones**.



That moment was too surreal for me to believe. My rapidly beating heart signified the realization of that noteworthy occasion. I dared not allow myself to speak of that symbolic torch passing. My mind wildly came up with phrases and words much too banal to convey to a body of women as to how sweet and momentous this particular gift was, not just for me, but for me that represents all of YOU. Failure to adequately come up with a fitting response, I chose instead to move forward with my speech.

Like the gavel Roxanne handed me, those thoughts linked the past to the present. I am overwhelmingly grateful as I plan to preside over my first State Executive Board Meeting. Blessings taking root in my heart become the foundation to support a solid resting place on which Merle's legacy transcends to all.



Accepting Merle's pin compels me to acknowledge that I am too small to wear such a weighty legacy alone, so I proudly bear this legacy with our past state organization presidents. More importantly, I wear this pin for YOU. As a member of the Florida State Organization, You inspire me to shore up my strength, focus my attention, deliver a punch of pride, and with YOU, leave a lasting legacy for years to come. Merle's legacy, represented by the pin, lives on through the relationships she formed as a DKG member. As such, her influence continues to inspire.

Why not make DKG a more significant priority in this biennium. Engaging in advocacy for DKG will yield a legacy we all help to fortify for the future. I am inspired. Are YOU?

**Terry Stanilonis, President, Florida DKG State Organization, 2023 - 2025**  
**terrystanilonis@gmail.com**



Actively Engaging in Advocacy



Dear DKG-FL Members,

I am thrilled to share with you our progress in planning the Florida State Organization Fall Meeting. With the support of an exceptional team, we have made some changes to the agenda to usher in a new biennium and bring our advocacy theme to life. Our focus is on Florida DKG Actively Engaging in Advocacy. We have prepared a short promotional video for our busy teacher members returning to school, which provides all the necessary details. For those who prefer written information, we have also included a summary of the September 22-23, 2023, event for your convenience.

- Join us for a fun and interactive advocacy promotion on Friday evening. Relax and converse with your peers at the roundtables in the ballroom while advocating for yourself and your profession. Take advantage of this exciting evening planned by **Nancy Bentz, First Vice-President**.
- Our Professional/Personal Development format consists of three one-hour breakout sessions, each focusing on a specific area of Advocacy. During these sessions, the **Legislative Committee** will lead the Legislative Advocacy session, **Pat Smith** from **Delta Beta Chapter** will facilitate the Individual/Personal Growth Advocacy session, and the **Educational Excellence and Membership/Expansion Committees** will lead the Advocacy for DKG session. You will have the opportunity to select one session from the three choices available.
- The luncheon will feature three guest speakers providing an engaging audio and visual experience. **Nichole Frenette, a 2023 Delta Beta inductee** and Mental Health Coordinator for Pasco County Schools, will discuss teachers' challenges when dealing with students exhibiting extreme behaviors. **Dr. Vivian Posey, DKG's Southeast Regional's US Forum Representative**, will delve into the significance of advocacy. Lastly, **Beth Hess, Delta Gamma's Chapter President and a member of the FSO Membership Committee**, will converse with **Marianne Cooper, 2022 Gamma Nu Chapter Inductee**, and our conference's featured vocalist. Marianne will lead the audience in singing about our commitment to fight for our profession and organization. In conclusion, Beth will seamlessly link each speaker to DKG's vision and mission while highlighting the advocacy biennium theme.

We must all acknowledge the remarkable impact of advocacy in upholding our fundamental principles of advancing women educators, fostering personal and professional development, and recognizing outstanding women. We are eagerly anticipating our upcoming gathering to reaffirm this timeless message. I am eagerly looking forward to seeing all of you in September.

*Terry Stanilonis (TS)*

**Terry Stanilonis, President  
Florida State Organization**

**The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International**

[terrystanilonis@gmail.com](mailto:terrystanilonis@gmail.com)

(904) 707-0239



**Florida DKG State Organization  
Fall Executive Board Meeting  
Registration Form and Automated Payment  
September 22 -23, 2023  
Orlando Marriott Lake Mary**



Please print or type one name per form: (Use black ink only)

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 September 5, 2023**

**Member Registration**                      \$75.00 \_\_\_\_\_ (includes meeting costs & Saturday Brunch)

**Friday Night Dinner Buffett**            \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest Friday Night Dinner**            \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest Saturday Lunch**                \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Late Registration Fee**                 \$60.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Payment**                         \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Send to: Carolyn McGowan**  
230 Overlook Drive  
Clermont, Florida, 34711-2428  
[mmcdm1@aol.com](mailto:mmcdm1@aol.com)  
352-223-7773

**Make check to Delta Kappa Gamma**  
CK # \_\_\_\_\_  
or Zelle \_\_\_\_\_

**No refunds after September 11, 2023.**

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

**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.

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**Automated Payment (Follow all three steps)**

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:** See second attachment.

**Hotel Guest Room Reservations  
Florida DKG Fall Executive Board Meeting  
September 22-23, 2023**



Orlando Marriott Lake Mary  
1501 International Parkway  
Lake Mary, FL 32746 Phone 407-995-1100

**September 22 – 23, 2023 (Rate will be available on 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> for a limited number.)**

**Reservation cut-off date: September 1, 2023**

**Rates: Single - \$119.00 Double - \$119 Triple - \$119.00 Quad - \$119.00**

**(Room rates do NOT include taxes and fees.)** Each reservation must be guaranteed with a first night's deposit or major credit card. Specify the group name (above) to receive the group rate.

**Note: The rate given above will not be available once the contracted number of guest rooms (the block) are booked. This may be prior to September 1. Any reservation after this date or filled block (almost filled as of August 2) is subject to availability and a new rate. Each member is responsible for their own accommodation.**

**DKG FL Group Reservation:** Make reservation contact in this order:

1. Use this link to reserve your room: [Book Your Group/Corporate Rate | Marriott International](#)

**[Book your group rate for DKG - FALL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING/WORKSHOP](#)**

2. If that does not work, send an email to [Karthik.sharma@marriott.com](mailto:Karthik.sharma@marriott.com)
3. If that does not work, call K.K. at 407-995-7028. KK is our contact for booking in our block.

**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 (the new toll Express Lane is great)  
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 and turn left at 2<sup>nd</sup> driveway for Marriott

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

Take Toll Road 429 on west side of Disney Properties  
Stay on 429 toward Sanford/Daytona Beach until it ends  
Turn right onto International Parkway  
Travel through 4 stop lights and turn left at 2<sup>nd</sup> driveway for Marriott

**Directions from I-95**

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

## Fall Executive Board Meeting Tentative Schedule At A Glance September 22 – 23, 2023

### Friday – September 22

3:00 – 6:00 PM	Registration	Grand Foyer
3:00 – 6:00 PM	FLDKGEF Board of Directors	Orchid 2
4:15 - 5:15 PM	Finance Committee	Orchid 3
4:00 – 5:45 PM	Committee Meetings (Reserved Tables)	Grand Ballroom
5:30 – 6:45 PM	<b>Prepaid Buffet Dinner</b>	Salon A-C
6:00 – 7:00 PM	<b>District Meetings w/ Presidents</b>	
	District I	Orchid 3
	District II	Salon F
	District III	Salon G
	District IV	Salon Orchid 2
	District V	Salon TBD
	District VI	Salon TBD
6:15 – 7:00 PM	First Timers Meeting	Salon H
7:30 - 8:30 PM.	DKG Florida Educational Foundation	Grand Ballroom
8:40 – 9:40PM	Large Group Activity	Grand Ballroom

### Saturday – September 23

7:00 – 8:30 AM	Registration	Grand Foyer
8:30 – 10:00 AM	<b>Executive Board Meeting</b>	Salon D – E
10:15 – 11:15 AM	<b>Breakout Sessions</b>	
Session: <b>(Legislative Advocacy)</b>		Salon A-B-C
Session: <b>(Personal/Individual Advocacy)</b>		Orchid 2-3
Session: <b>(Advocacy for DKG)</b>		Salon F-G-H
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	<b>Lunch</b>	Grand Ballroom
12:30 – 1:45 PM	Panelist Presentations	Grand Ballroom
	Mental Health ( <b>Nichole Frenette</b> ) = 15 minutes	
	Legislative ( <b>Dr. Vivian Posey</b> ) = 15 minutes	
	DKG ( <b>Beth Hess</b> and <b>Marianne Cooper</b> ) = 15 minutes	



## Making a Difference – Chapter by Chapter

### Dr. Beverly Helms, Florida DKG State Organization President 1999-2001

Almost a quarter of a century ago, **Dr. Beverly Helms** was at the helm of the DKG state organization. She was ably assisted by individuals such as **Dr. Elsie Gross, Ruth Pridgen, Nancy Thompson, Carolyn McGowan, Marjorie Cenower, Yvonne Rice, Myra Ponder, Gwen Carson** and **Vivian Landfair**.

Members serving as chairs of state committees during that biennium included **Marjorie Allen, Joan Penland, Ruth McCrary, Morita Hadlock, Barbara Van Diepen, Linda Lentin, Ruth Smith, Doris Nesbit, Dr. Verna Norris, Janie Robinson, Ruth Smith, Gerry Hacker, Barbara Bonfili, Marla Thomas Cannon, Marcia Kirkland, Lunell Johnson, Fran Baumgart, Patricia Segrest, Fern Cleary, Dr. Connie Bivens, Nancy Kerce,** and **Jeanne Klender**.



District directors included **Sandra Smith, Bettie Lou Stewart, Kay Weaver, Peggy DuBose, Linda Valente, Janet Davenport, Leslie Rickabaugh, Roxanne Berger, Dr. Joanna Cocchiarella, Jessica Cooper,** and **Lou Burns**.



The 2000 spring district meetings were held in Quincy, with 137 members in attendance, and Gainesville, Tampa, Okeechobee, Boca Raton, and Miami with more than 100 members attending each.

**Evelyn Barron**, International President, was the international representative at the 2000 Fall Workshop and 325 members attended. The late Dr. Carol Mueller, International President 2001-2003, was the keynote speaker at the first Florida DKG state organization convention of the 21st century with 336 in attendance. Past state organization president, **Maxine Smith**, gave the inspirational thought and the following individuals were inducted into the first state DKG Hall of Fame: **Fran Baumgart, Fern Cleary, Barbara Gillis, Dr. Elsie Gross, Irma Norman, Joan Penland, Sallie Shelton Culver, Ruth Smith, Marla Thomas Cannon,** and **Barbara Van Diepen**.

All previous recipients of the Sara B. Ferguson Award were also inducted into the Hall of Fame. Those in attendance included **Maxine Smith, Nancy Kerce, Jesslyn McBride, Dr. Connie Bivens, Marjorie Cenower, Yvonne Rice, Myra Ponder, Edie Smith,** and **Dr. Beverly Helms**.

The first international convention held outside the U.S. took place in Toronto in 2000. Seventy members from Florida attended, and **Dr. Helms** gave the Tribute to the Founders.

As the author of the articles about past state organization presidents, it was difficult to write this one. For that reason, it is the last included in the published histories of our state organization. I have been blessed by those on whose shoulders I stood, and by whose fires I warmed. I have had the unique honor of serving as the second international president (2012-2014) from Florida with **Dr. Eunah Temple Holden** as the first. Many of my mentors have gone on to their reward. Some are still serving DKG and for that, I give them my deepest gratitude.

May those of you who are younger enjoy the legacies of women past and may you become the leaders of today and tomorrow. Empower all women with experiences and opportunities to believe in and develop their own leadership knowledge and skills. The torch has been passed!



## Influencing an Audience: An IGNITE Experience



**Nancy Bentz, First Vice-President  
Florida State DKG Organization  
nbenteach@protonmail.com**

My IGNITE experience, formerly known as the Golden Gift, at the University of Texas brought explicit guidance about how to build a future for our organization which at one time, for me, inexplicitly lay rather dormant and somewhat stagnant. In Florida, as an active leader in our state's legislative committee, my focus and gain of perspective during this time in Austin became my primary purpose for reflection and communications with my state's DKG leaders. As the classes continued throughout my time, my perspective grew as I saw ways the teachings fit into the organization's future as a whole. We had three classes for six days that covered topics such as advocacy, negotiations, communications, influence, and self-care. While each of these topics may be used for any form of life's stages or circumstances, they have direct impacts on our organization's future vision as we consider changes. The impressive and knowledgeable professors made presentations geared for DKG as it moves forward.

While I could write pages about the experience, I will reflect briefly on Professor/Director Amanda Russell's presentation ***Rethinking Influencer Marketing***. We learned a number of important points when considering how to influence an audience. We must know our audience, recognize each chapter's influencer, caution against self-serving motives, and ensure a firm hold on what works today, while releasing the times of what worked yesterday. Social media is also a resource for LISTENING to an audience; thereby, gaining an insight to their thoughts and needs. Observe your audience to see what they are doing to engage in conversation. Communications must be built on a foundation of authenticity and trust, and we must use updated technology platforms and high impact presentation strategies. A presenter must be succinct, point-pacing must be quick, and content relevant. When we gain an emotional connection, it is a win-win.

I'm certain I can speak for all of the 21 Ignite attendees when I offer our kudos to the planners that made this experience possible. The financial and member support was astounding. I just can't express enough the impacts made by our leadership's efforts. I use the many applicable tools provided in all of my presentations, meetings, and brainstorming sessions. We all deeply appreciate the opportunity to attend IGNITE, and we've become life long supporters of each other.

Source:



Amanda Russell, MBA, is the founding director of the Global Center for Influence at The University of Texas at Austin.





## Advocating and Communicating Creates a Stronger DKG MEMBER

**Joann Higgins, Corresponding Secretary  
Florida State Officer  
gammanuhiggins@yahoo.com**

Dr. Annie Webb Blanton had it right as our Founder. Her goal was to create an organization that would be able to support women educators of her time by advocating for them. She did this by communicating and keeping them motivated professionally, personally, spiritually, socially, and abreast of the culture they lived in.

Her society was not a sorority, and she wanted to communicate to each member how important they were in the classroom and that key women educators together could create a powerful force in the society.

What can we do in Florida to carry on the vision of this key woman educator?

### **State Leaders must**

1. Communicate with the members of the state organization to encourage their individual chapter and state goals.
2. Support the implementation of by-laws and parliamentary rules of order.
3. Advocate for women in their roles in education.
4. Keep the members current as to legislative issues that affect educators, children, and families in our society.
5. Mentor the chapters in implementing their visions.

### **Chapter Leaders will**

1. Communicate with each and every member in their chapter.
2. Set by example the vision of the chapter and incorporate the seven purposes into their meetings throughout the year.
3. Frame the meetings in parliamentary order with an agenda to include the Officers' and Committees' reports.
4. Communicate to members the important news and information from the state, international and chapter members.
5. Advocate for their members in the workplace and keep the community informed as to the purpose of the chapter.
6. Offer members the opportunity to attend state meetings by giving an allowance for registration.
7. Offer some support for their dues if it becomes difficult to continue membership.

### **Chapter Members**

1. Communicate with each other.
2. Support the vision of their chapters.
3. Communicate with the state members at state functions how each chapter is successful and how the chapters can move forward in their vision.
4. Volunteer and become part of the chapter/state leadership.
5. Advocate for each other in the workplace.
6. Be informed of legislative issues and support your chapter members who desire to be in leadership.
7. Attend meetings, call members to give them a ride, check on members who haven't attended recently.
8. Keep the personal information of all members current, especially in the event of filing a Form 6 for the state.





## Parliamentary Moment: Let's Learn About Parliamentary Procedure and Have Great Meetings

**Stephanie (Sam) King, PRP State Parliamentarian**  
**gammanuking@gmail.com**

*"A great meeting takes more time to prepare than to present." S. King, PRP*

When I mention that I love talking about parliamentary procedure, I can see the silent eye rolls or the look of horror in others' eyes. How can parliamentary procedures be fun or interesting and help our meetings?

I have chaired many meetings, and in looking back, the members must have thought that they could have had a better time watching paint dry at home. But, with training, I want to believe that the meetings that I currently chair are:

1. moving along according to the agenda to accomplish the most in the least amount of time,
2. the business of the organization is being done in a fair and orderly manner, and
3. the members are actively participating in the organization which means that the organization is healthy.

For the Gamma Nu Chapter, the last six presidents attended a six week parliamentary training session offered by our local Charlotte County Parliamentarians Unit. The classes reviewed the need to use Robert's Rules of Order, but also gave the incoming president knowledge and confidence. Besides this training, these presidents attended a Florida State Organization's Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar.

Gamma Nu has been successful due to:

1. parliamentary procedures training before the president takes office,
2. incoming presidents attending the Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar,
3. a parliamentarian is required at all chapter and executive board meetings,
4. a dedicated executive board that meets in person and via zoom,
5. chapter meetings that are planned in May for the upcoming year with designated members to host each meeting,
6. active recruitment of potential members, membership approval, an orientation program, and induction ceremony,
7. a book club with the book selections chosen by the chapter members,
8. a strong finance committee that prepares an annual budget for membership approval,
9. projects that are inclusive of all members including January's Fashion Show fundraiser, The Main Event, and the October Literacy Workshop which is an outreach to our teaching community,
10. an active scholarship committee that grants, with membership approval, scholarships to qualified local high school graduates with continued financial support throughout their higher education years.

The things that make Gamma Nu successful may not be what will make your chapter successful, but the main ingredient is to have meetings that the members want to attend, participate in, and become leaders either as an officer, committee chair, or as an unsung hero who is there to assist the chapter in any way she can.



The first step is to have great meetings, an annual goal for the chapter, and to encourage members to participate. This may mean that you have your meetings in person, on Zoom, or a hybrid of both. Please allow me to attend one of your meetings via Zoom and change your mind about parliamentary procedure and your meetings.

*Protect the rights of all members including: the majority,  
the minority, individuals, absentee, and of the entire organization.*



## Communications & Marketing Committee

**Elinor Mount-Simmons, Chairperson**  
**emountsimmons@gmail.com**

Greetings Esteemed Ladies of Delta Kappa Gamma!

With much excitement, I introduce you to the dynamic, knowledgeable, and gifted women who have eagerly volunteered their time to serve on the Communications & Marketing Committee for the next biennium. The Talented Ten and the district they represent are

- I - Elinor Mount-Simmons,**
- II - Cindy Pugh & Pam Pierce,**
- III - Cynthia Tehan & Michelle Josey,**
- IV - Vickie Coats & Missy Jones,**
- V - Bonnie Kelley from District III, and**
- VI - Gale Carter & Joann Higgins.**

I am thrilled, also a little anxious, to chair the Communications & Marketing Committee. Our committee plans to do all we can to help our chapters with their communication and marketing efforts. We have two goals for this biennium:

- 1. Increase the number of chapters that receive the Communications Award and**
- 2. Help chapters market their chapter by creating newsletters.**

Seventeen chapters received the award this past biennium, which is 27.4% of our chapters, and we want that number to increase during this biennium. Don't you want to hear your chapter's name called at the 2025 convention? Sure you do! And so do we! To accomplish this goal, we plan to regularly communicate with chapters encouraging them to work towards earning this award. Each district has a representative on our committee and those representatives, along with the chair, will regularly communicate with chapters reminding them of this award and its deadlines, so many more chapters will earn the Communication & Marketing Award and be recognized at the next convention.

Newsletters are a vital marketing tool for they communicate the great work our chapters do on a recurring basis. Our committee will have a table at our Fall Executive Board Meeting to display newsletters, so we encourage all chapters that already use this resource to bring copies to be placed on the table. We will also provide Tip Sheets on creating newsletters for chapters that don't have one. We want to promote the good work Delta Kappa Gamma does, and our newsletters help do just that.

The Talented Ten of the Communications & Marketing Committee are on board to advance the good news of Delta Kappa Gamma and look forward to a fabulous biennium.



## Written Anything Good Lately?

**Dr. Jackie Greene, Chair  
Educational Excellence Committee  
jgreene@fgcu.edu**



Written anything good lately? Perhaps the more appropriate question would be, written anything at all lately? Most of us would reply, "Yes, thousands of emails, tweets, Instagrams, and texts." Indeed, we are writing more today AND we are writing differently. But as educators, mothers, grandmothers, and citizens, are we passing on the legacy of writing as a communication and self-reflection tool or are we merely assigning and assessing? I do not have space in this article to restate the reasons why writing matters or the critical role writing plays for learning in most academic subjects. My purpose here is to recruit our members, practicing/retired educators, as a critical mass of advocates for writing as a means of sharing our lives with others. The "New Best Standards" and "Revised Reading Competencies" do not include writing as a means of sharing our lives as an instructional goal; however, as humans, even in the 21st century, we write to remember, communicate, imagine, and connect with others. So, how can our members/chapters support writing as a means of sharing human experiences and connecting with others? I offer a few suggestions below.

### What can our chapters do?

- Adopt a classroom at a local school and become pen pals with the students in the classroom. A pen pal initiative will take minimal organization to work out the details with the classroom teacher. Your chapter can take the lead in this effort making the work minimal for the classroom teacher. Get creative...get connected.
- Offer a classroom/teacher mini grant specifically focused on supporting children's writing. Include the requirement that the teacher make a presentation at one of your meetings to report on the success of the project.

### What can classroom teachers do?

To justify the use of pen pals, quote research: "Research indicates adult pen pals provide authentic writing experiences that piques children's interest in writing, improves reading, critical thinking, and integrates the curriculum." (Charron, 2007, LeVine, 2002, Boyaci & Guner, 2019).

- Connect with a DKG/your chapter and ask them to become pen pals with your classroom. Work out the details together.
- Seek out other adult groups to recruit as pen pals for your students.
- Create a writing center that encourages authentic writing, drawing, writer's notebooks, and book making. Regularly use the "author's chair" as a way for students to share their authentic writing. Publish your students' authentic writing; place those publications in your reading center.
- Model/share your own authentic writing.
- In place of "boys; girls or friends" refer to your students as "authors, writers, story builders, and pen pals." How we talk makes a difference.
- Write Thank-You notes to community helpers, school support staff, etc.
- Integrate children's literature that features letters as part of the story. Why? Because letters are easy to read, have a pattern, use familiar vocabulary, and tell stories. These books act as models for writing as a tool for communication. A list of books is on the next page.
- Apply for one of the DKG teacher/classroom grants. Information is available on the DKG International or DKG Florida websites.



I will close with these thoughts; writing is a gateway to children becoming participants and decision makers in a democratic society, but writing is often referred to as the “neglected R.” Why? Because writing is complex, it requires time and nurturing to develop, writing is our thinking made visible, and human thinking is difficult to standardize. Writing begins not as deskwork/computer work but as lifework and offers opportunities for students to share their lives with others. Bring joy to the complex process called writing!



### List of Children’s Literature Using Letters to Tell Stories:

No book on this list has been “challenged.” All books are available through Amazon.

***The Jolly Postman Series:*** Janet and Allan Ahlberg. Each book contains hidden letters that familiar storybook characters write to each other. Letters are contained in tiny envelopes making the book interactive and motivating to explore and read.

***Friendly Letter Writing with the Jolly Postman Books:*** Tracy Jarboe and Stefani Sadler. Classroom ideas for authentic writing experiences based on the Jolly Postman. .

***Written Anything Good Lately:*** Allen Lindaman. An ABC book of ideas for what to write.

***A Letter from Your Teacher on the First Day of School***

***A Letter from Your Teacher on the Last Day of School:***

Shannon Olsen. Terrific story about first day of school jitters and last day of school memories. Encourages letter writing as a community building strategy.

***The Gardener:*** Sarah Stewart. A creative young gardener tells her story through letters.

***Postcards from Camp:*** Simms Taback. What is it like to go to sleep away camp for the first time? Find out by reading the postcards and letters sent home.

***Stringbean’s Trip to the Shining Sea:*** Vera & Jennifer Williams. Postcards chronicle Stringbean’s trip from Kansas to California.

***Peace, Locomotion:*** Jacqueline Woodson. Lonnie and his sister have been sent to live in separate foster families. He decides it is his job to write about their lives using letters. The story is told through the letters Lonnie and Lili write to each other.

If you are interested in more information contact **Dr. Jackie Greene**, Chair of the Educational Excellence Committee at [jgreene@fgcu.edu](mailto:jgreene@fgcu.edu).



**I will teach you in a room.**

**I will teach you now on Zoom.**

**I will teach you in your house.**

**I will teach you with a mouse.**

**I will teach you here and there.**

**I will teach you because I care.**

**So just do your very best.**

**And do not worry about the rest.**

# The 2024 Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar

**Allyson Gantt, Chair  
Leadership Committee  
rangerally@gmail.com**



Calling all leaders! Yes, you!

Both current and future leaders are invited to attend the next Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar. It will be held from June 9 - 12, 2024, at the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary Hotel. Applications are available to download from the Florida State website and will also be available at the Fall Workshop. This is the perfect opportunity for you to take some well-deserved time for yourself, meet other great DKG members from around the state, and learn from each other. The goal of the seminar is to develop leadership skills that will benefit you in your professional, personal and DKG life.



Whether you are a new educator looking to sharpen your skills, a seasoned professional pursuing advancement, or a retiree seeking a refresher, a meaningful experience is waiting for you at the seminar. We gather on Sunday afternoon with get-acquainted activities and dinner which provide fellowship and opportunities for all attendees to connect with each other.

During the seminar, there will be opportunities to participate in a variety of learning experiences. These sessions address thoughtful concepts in today's educational environment and the rapidly changing landscape of best practices. Personal self-reflection and goal-setting is a featured component of the seminar, and participants are provided the time to thoughtfully examine and define purpose and aspiration for themselves. Time is provided to address DKG issues both at the chapter level and beyond.

Members who attend the seminar are responsible for their own travel. There is a \$150 commitment fee for those accepted; however, many chapters willingly pay this fee. All materials are included as is the hotel room with double occupancy and all meals and snacks except for Monday night's dinner. That meal is a great opportunity to visit one of the local restaurants and continue building fellowship with seminar participants.

In addition to applications being available on the Florida State Organization's website, applications will be available and accepted at the Fall Workshop and at all District Meetings. The Seminar is held only once each biennium, so this is your chance to be a part of a very special group of women educators from Florida who come together to grow professionally and personally, while strengthening our society at the chapter and state level.

Don't delay, sign up today!





# The Florida DKG Educational Foundation



**Kathy Raiford, Board of Directors**  
**kathynole1@comcast.net**

It's ready for you! The Florida DKG Educational Foundation is thrilled to announce that the applications for the Educational Grant and the Professional Development Award are now available to download from the Florida DKG Educational Foundation website ([www.fldkgef.org](http://www.fldkgef.org)). The Professional Development Award provides funding for educators to



- Attend trainings
- Seminars
- Workshops
- Lecture series
- Computer courses
- Registration fees, travel, lodging
- Other non-degree programs

These opportunities relate to the professional aspiration and/or current educational assignment of the applicant. The maximum amount of this award is \$1,500. Application deadline is February 1, 2024. The Educational Grant is now available for employed or retired Florida educators to cover the cost associated with but not limited to



- Classroom activities
- Projects
- Materials/supplies
- Field trips
- Speakers
- Follow-up activities
- Equipment



All of these activities will support the learning for teachers, retired teachers and students. The maximum amount for the grant is \$1,000. Plan on attending the Florida DKG Educational Foundation's Annual meeting on Friday evening, September 22, 2023. You will hear success stories from some of the recipients and how the Florida DKG Educational Foundation made their Wishes Come True!

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Foundation at [www.fldkgef.org](http://www.fldkgef.org). Your donation helps the organization strive to provide opportunities for educators in Florida to pursue professional and personal growth, and supports educational excellence worldwide.

## 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.



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.

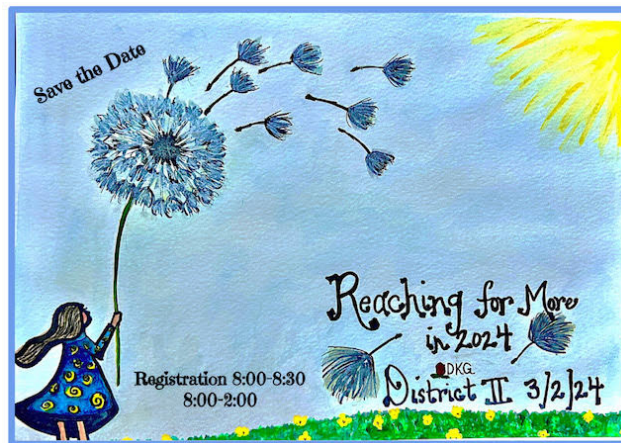
### District II Meeting: March 2, 2024 "Reaching for More in 2024."



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)

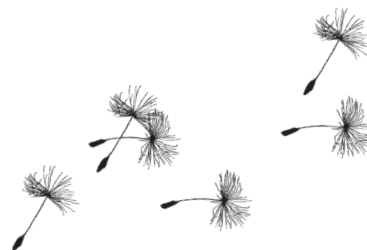
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

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 [dkgbagladp23@gmail.com](mailto:dkgbagladp23@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

## Incoming 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 24, 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 from 5:00 - 9:00 PM with food, beverage, and a bunco game! Accommodations are available at Comfort Inn Suites, Malabar Road. Just take Exit 173 off I-95. Comfort Inn Suites is located behind Texas Roadhouse and McDonalds. Remember to mention DKG Group when making your reservations.



Saturday's schedule 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 breakout 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 31<sup>st</sup>**

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 1<sup>st</sup>-January 15<sup>th</sup>**  
(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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup>





## 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, CoDirector**  
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.



**SAVE THE DATE**

# 2024 Florida District V Meeting

Experience the  
diversity and excitement  
of DKG District V at

**CARNIVALE - DO MORE IN '24!**

**March 16, 2024**

**8:15 am - Registration, coffee & pastries**

**9:00 am - General Session**

**Tickets: \$65**

Le Meridien Dania Beach  
1825 Griffin Road  
Dania Beach, FL 33004  
954-920-3500



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

**Registration form, schedule & details coming soon!**



### Florida DKG – District VI Meeting

## “Unlocking the Power of Purpose”

February 24, 2024

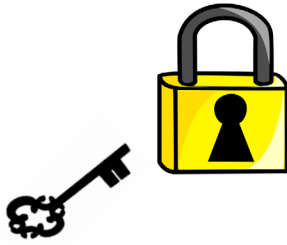
8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

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](mailto: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 Beta Chapter

Alpha Beta enjoyed a very successful Tea and Fashion Show at the magnificent St. John's Cathedral on June 10, 2023. We were happy to be able to resume our Grants-in-Aid program for the first time since the pandemic. I can't say who looked more stunning, the ladies or the decor. Judging from their expressions and comments, our guests were very pleased. Thanks, **Karen Goins**, for your elegant decor and committee!

We also enjoyed watching the trending fashions selected by Fiordaliza of Chicco stores and modeled by our lovely Alpha Beta members. There were also beautiful baskets for the raffle donated by some of our members. So much talent and generosity in our chapter! **Maria Del Rosario Dugger** donated beautiful works of art for door prizes. **Katie Plank** created earrings made of teapots and roses. The roses were a big hit! Kudos to all who donated to the raffle. An array of succulent tea sandwiches, scones, sweets, and flavorful teas were made compliments of our resident chefs and bakers, **Linda Zeiler**, **Bonnie McCarthy**, **Rondia Leach**, and committee members.

We deeply appreciate our sister chapter there to support and share fellowship with us. We were absolutely thrilled to have in attendance Florida State Organization officers **Pat Litterick**, **Past Chair of Leadership Development Committee**; **Terry Stanilonis**, **President of the State Organization** and **Roxanne Berger**, **Immediate Past President of the State Organization**. This was Roxanne's last official duty in office. Bouquets to Roxanne! Roses to all the ladies who worked so hard, up front and behind the scenes, to make this tea our greatest FUNdraiser to date.

### Alpha Kappa Chapter

Two key women educators from Alpha Kappa Chapter were honored for their 50 years or more of service to DKG. We thank and honor them for their dedication!

**Ginny Densmore**, a member since April 1, 1972, came to Tallahassee from Chattanooga, Tennessee, as a transfer student in 1959 and earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Music Education from the Florida State University School of Music. She taught elementary music at Sabal Palm Elementary School from 1961 - 1967 and at the Florida State University School from 1967 - 1991. Ginny was awarded District Teacher of the Year.

She has been a member of Alpha Kappa Chapter of DKG since 1972, and she served on the board and

as chapter president 1982 - 1984. Besides serving on several committees, she chaired the Membership and Music Committees for many years. Since retiring from teaching in 1992, Ginny volunteered with the Tallahassee Symphony Society and St. Francis Wildlife Rehabilitation. She has played clarinet in the Capital City Band from 1966 - 2012, the Tallahassee Winds since 1997, and the Big Bend Community Orchestra since 1994.



**Rhonda Work** was inducted into DKG on April 1, 1961. After completing her B.S. degree in Speech Pathology at Northwestern University, Rhonda moved to Broward County Schools. In 1961, she was invited to become a charter member of Alpha Pi Chapter and eventually elected chapter president. She received a sabbatical to finish her M.A. in Communication Disorders at the University of Florida.

In 1975, Rhonda's move to Tallahassee to work for the Florida Department of Education offered the opportunity to transfer to Alpha Kappa Chapter where she became chapter president in 1984. She completed her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Florida State University. In 2000, Rhonda accepted the role of chapter treasurer and has held that position to this day. Also, she is financial manager for the Big Bend Coordinating Council and treasurer for District 1. While **Dr. Nancy Henning** was President of the Florida State Organization, Rhonda was registrar for the fall meetings and state convention. She has received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Florida State University and the Silver Star Award from the Tallahassee Senior Center in recognition of her many volunteer activities in the community.



### Beta Alpha Chapter

Beta Alpha is beginning a new venture to help fund our scholarships and community outreach ideas. In order to do this, we are making and selling shawls, tumblers, and hats with DKG logos. On the next page, is an order form with pictures. All items are made to order. If you have questions, feel free to contact **Racquel House**. Thank you for helping to support our chapter and our ideas for community outreach.

# Sharing Chapter Experiences



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS  
**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™**  
**BETA ALPHA**  
BROWARD COUNTY

## Pre-Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

2022-2024 EXECUTIVE BOARD  
PRESIDENT - RACQUEL HOUSE  
VICE PRESIDENT - BETTY BUNNELL  
TREASURER - DR. PEG DUNN-SNOW  
SECRETARY - ALICE SCHMIDLIN

Contact: Racquel @ 954-399-1442  
DKGBetaAlphaFL@gmail.com

Shawl #1: Shawl Color - Red    Black  
                 Vinyl Rose Color - Red    Black    White    Silver  
  
Shawl #2: Shawl Color - Red    Black  
                 Vinyl Rose Color - Red    Black    White    Silver  
  
Shawl #3: Shawl Color - Red    Black  
                 Vinyl Rose Color - Red    Black    White    Silver

1 Shawl = \$25  
2 Shawls = \$45 (\$5 savings)  
3 Shawls = \$60 (\$15 savings)

Total Number of Shawls: \_\_\_\_\_ = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Red 20oz Thermal Tumbler - \$15 each X \_\_\_\_\_ = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Red Baseball Cap - \$10 each X \_\_\_\_\_ = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Shipping: \$5.00 (\$1 per each additional item - if being mailed) – Shipping total = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Made via:    Cash    Check    Venmo (@dkgbetaalphaf)    Zelle (954-399-1442)

## Florida DKG Members on the Go

At DKG's International Conference  
in Detroit



Susan Salesses, Beta Iota's Chapter President, and Dr. Helen Popovich, DKG's International Parliamentarian, had a great time July 11-16, 2023, in Detroit!

### At FREA Convention



DKG members from Florida attended the Florida Retired Educators Association (FREA) Convention held in Panama City, Florida during May. The Western theme was "Celebrate Florida Country, y'all." From left to right in the photo are **State Treasurer Beverly Stagg, Missy Cumbie, Beverly Kelley, and Donna Heald.**

# THE ARTS



## Dream Variations



by Langston Hughes,  
1901 - 1967

To fling my arms wide  
In some place of the sun,  
To whirl and to dance  
Till the white day is done.  
Then rest at cool evening  
Beneath a tall tree  
While night comes on gently,  
Dark like me—  
That is my dream!

To fling my arms wide  
In the face of the sun,  
Dance! Whirl! Whirl!  
Till the quick day is done.  
Rest at pale evening . . .  
A tall, slim tree . . .  
Night coming tenderly  
Black like me.

From  
The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes,  
published by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.

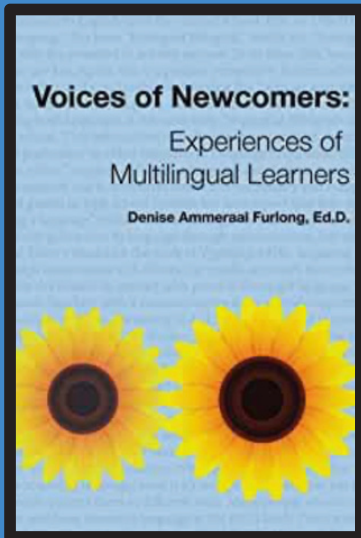
Copyright © 1994  
the Estate of Langston Hughes.

Used with permission.



# 2023 Educators Book Award

## ***Voices of Newcomers: Experiences of Multilingual Learners***



By Denise Ammeraal Furlong, Ed.D.

The DKG Educators Book Award Committee is pleased to announce this year's winning book: *Voices of Newcomers: Experiences of Multilingual Learners*. This is an easy-to-read, practical guide for the early career educator, the seasoned educator and the administrator looking to meet the needs of Multilingual/English Learners, in particular Newcomers and SLIFE (Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education).

This author hopes to spark conversation and inspire creativity in working with Multilingual Learners as she shares valuable experiences on:

- How to manage the first days and weeks to assist the Newcomer in adjusting (academically, emotionally and socially) to their new school and class
- Asset-based perspectives on the progress of Multilingual Learners (MLs)
- Information that will help teachers academically engage these students, in addition to ways to assess and motivate them
- Reflection questions and discussions for each chapter to guide book clubs or conversations in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
- Ready-to-use resources to support educators as they meet the needs of MLs (Multilingual Learners)

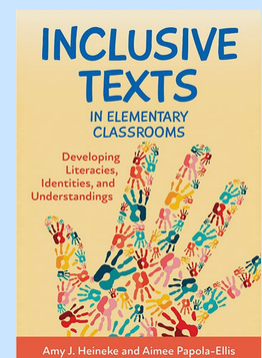
This book gives the educational community time to pause and reflect on classroom activities, teaching styles, approaches to student feelings, attitude toward the Multilingual Learner, and insight into possible family situations or trauma that they have experienced. By amplifying the voices of these students, their families, and their teachers, this handbook includes real-life stories to help educators understand these diverse perspectives.

## **Honorable Mention**

### ***Inclusive Texts in Elementary Classrooms: Developing Literacies, Identities, and Understandings***

by Amy J. Heineke and Aimee Papola-Ellis

At a time when schools are becoming more and more diverse it is important that schools prioritize texts that mirror children's life experiences and give children a window to understanding the experiences of others. The authors take educators through a four-part framework for selecting, using, and engaging students with text that promote children's identity, and reading and content literacy. This book based on extensive research gives strategies, examples, and reflective questions. *Inclusive Texts* provides educators with the tools to meet the diverse and relevant needs of today's students.



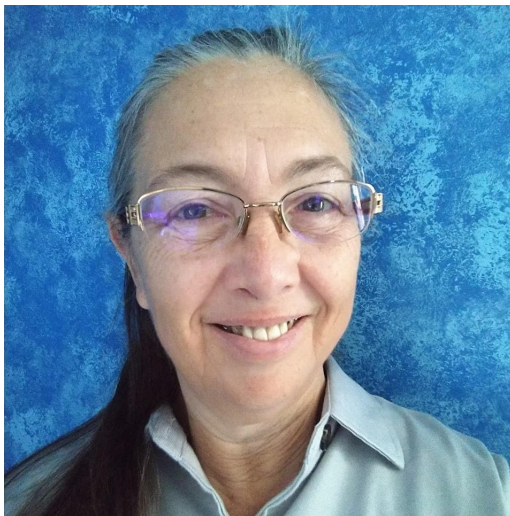
www.dkg.org



# THE ARTS



## Florida Artist Featured in Betty Thornton Arts Exhibition 2023:



**Roxanne Rocha  
Gamma Delta Chapter**

Roxanne Rocha has been with Clermont Elementary School in Lake County for 30 years; first as a parent volunteer when her son was in Carolyn McGowan’s Kindergarten class, then as a substitute teacher and then as a teacher assistant.

When her son entered the military after high school instead of going to college, she decided to go to college to get her degree to become a teacher. She is currently teaching fifth grade at Clermont Elementary School for the twelfth year. The principal asked her to teach fifth grade at the new K-8 Aurelia M. Cole Academy, in Clermont, which just opened for the 2023-2024 school year

Husband, Michael, and Roxanne have two children. Their son, who was just recently promoted to Major in the Army. He is a graduate of and now professor at West

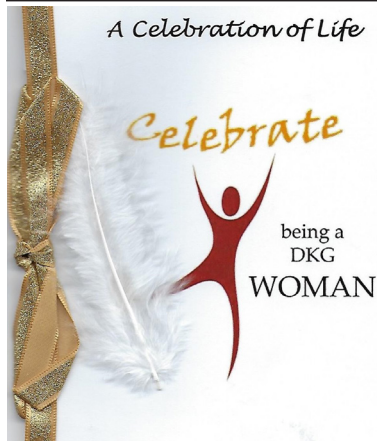
Point Military Academy in New York. Their daughter, Misty, is in the accounting department at a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning company in Orlando. Since May of 2022, Roxanne has been a member of the Gamma Delta Chapter in District IV and served on the Arts and Crafts Committee.

One of her hobbies is rowing, and she is a rower on the Flaming Phoenix Paddlers. Roxanne has been a member of this dragon boat community for four years. She absolutely loves being out on the water and has met many wonderful people who share her love of the both the water and the sport.



Roxanne loves to do all kinds of crafts and decided to try diamond painting when she saw it online. There is a special tool that comes with the kit to enable you to pick up the beads and place them on the canvas. She needed to buy a case with individual containers to hold all of the beads for the project. This particular piece, **The Lighthouse**, took her about two weeks to complete while watching TV in the evenings. Her husband made the frame and framed it for her when she could not find a frame to fit it.





**Margaret (Peggy) Baker**  
**Beta Sigma Chapter**  
**District IV**  
**April 23, 2023**  
**Merritt Island, Florida**



"Peggy" Louise Giles Baker, 79, of Suntree, Florida, passed away on April 24, 2023. She was born in the Bronx of New York City on January 30, 1944. When Peggy was five years old, the family moved to Hicksville, New York. After Peggy graduated from Hicksville High School in 1961, she attended SUNY at Oswego, where she achieved a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education.

During her first year of teaching, Peggy shared a house with six other first year teachers- a year she remembered all her life with great fondness. During this happy year, Peggy met and fell in love with Andrew Alan Graham, a young US Navy sailor. They married and moved to the Charleston Naval Station, where Andrew was based.

Peggy taught second and third grades at the nearby Summerville Elementary School. Upon completion of Andrew's Naval service in 1971, the young family moved to Brevard County, Florida.

Peggy soon found a position at Hans Christian Anderson Elementary School teaching kindergarten for the next 10 years. She was promoted to Curriculum Coordinator at Surf Side Elementary School for the next four years.

In 1975, Peggy and Andrew divorced, but Peggy found long-lasting love when she met John William "Bill" Baker, an executive at Eastern Florida State College, the former Brevard Community College. In 1977, Peggy and Bill married and moved to Suntree, where they lived together for 40 years until Bill's passing in 2017.

Peggy continued her education by attending Rollins College and earning her Master's Degree in K-12 School Administration. In 1985, Peggy became the Assistant Principal at Christa McAuliffe Elementary School. In 1995, she began working as the Assistant Principal at Sea Park Elementary School. Three years later, Peggy rose to the rank of Principal of Sea Park, a position she held until her retirement in 2007.

Peggy was an active member in Florida's Beta Sigma Chapter of DKG. Since induction in November of 2005, she served as chapter president, chapter vice president, and the International Outreach Program Chair. For the past 10 years, she spearheaded the Annual Bunco Fundraiser.

**Mary Kay Gwynne**  
**Epsilon Chapter**  
**District V**  
**July 20, 2023**  
**Miami, Florida**



Mary Kay Bell Gwynne, age 73, passed away peacefully on July 20, 2023. Mary Kay was born October 7, 1949, in Morgantown, West Virginia, where she lived out her childhood. She attended Morgantown High and went on to graduate from West Virginia University's School of Physical Education. Mary Kay would later earn a Masters Degree in Educational Administration from Nova Southeastern University.

In 1973, Mary Kay moved to Miami, Florida, where she started a family and raised both of her children. Over the years, she held a wide range of positions from teaching High School Spanish, Middle School Physical Education, and Pre-School, until she settled into her specialty of educating elementary aged children, Pre-K through 1st grade. She worked as a teacher at Gulliver Academy for many years, and it was there she earned her final position in education, as Gulliver Academy's Lower School Principal. She held her position as Principal for over 20 years.

Mary Kay was an active and reliable member of Epsilon Chapter for 20 years. She attended every meeting and activity. She was chapter vice-president from 2008 to 2010. She served two terms as chapter president from 2010 - 2014. As a member, she hosted many meetings at her home.



**Jeanne Marie Jones**  
**Beta Kappa Chapter**  
**District VI**  
**April 26, 2023**  
**Naples, Florida**



Jeanne Marie Jones, age 88, of Naples, Florida, passed away on April 26, 2023. She was born July 29, 1934, in Farmington, West Virginia. She wasn't the only child born to Jesse and Nellie that day, as they also welcomed Jeanne's twin sister, Joanne. The two of them would be lifelong best friends. Jeanne married the love of her life, Morris Chester Jones, and they spent many wonderful years together.

Jeanne loved children and she dedicated her life to teaching. She worked 30 years as an elementary school teacher in Maryland where she was also a past president of the Maryland State Teachers Association.

Jeanne was inducted into DKG in April of 1973, so she was a 50 year member this year. In Maryland, Jeanne was Past State President and Omega Chapter President. In Florida, she was Chapter President of Beta Kappa and selected into DKG Florida's Hall of Fame.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at [www.neptunesociety.com/location/fort-myers-cremation](http://www.neptunesociety.com/location/fort-myers-cremation) for the Jones family.

**Helen McGee**  
**Alpha Delta Chapter**  
**District VI**  
**March 7, 2023**  
**Fort Myers, Florida**



Helen McGee was a proud member of DKG for 52 years. She served on numerous committees in leadership positions in many states. For the last twenty years, she participated in the Alpha Delta Chapter of Florida. In April of 2021, a celebration was held for Helen to honor her 50 year membership in DKG International. Last year, Helen was honored during an Alpha Delta meeting as she celebrated her 100th birthday. A lively discussion of beautiful memories ensued.

Mrs. McGee taught for over thirty years throughout the United States. She was a world traveler and documented all of her trips, sharing the history with her students and colleagues. Over the years, she published materials and books marking her adventures not only in the world, but with her support of many students and charitable organizations. Last year, Helen wrote and published a personal biography for her family and friends. The book was vivid in memories and illustrations.

**Betty (Karen Elizabeth) Nelson**  
**Beta Mu Chapter**  
**District II**  
**June 26, 2023**  
**Fleming Island, Florida**

Betty Nelson passed on June 26, 2023, after a hard-fought battle with polycystic disease. She was born December 5, 1955, in Trenton, New Jersey.

Betty was the oldest of four girls in a military family. They traveled around the country moving every few years. In 1971, while her dad was stationed in Jacksonville, Florida, Betty met Jeffrey Nelson at Orange Park High School. They began dating, and stayed in touch despite Betty moving to Pennsylvania. Betty returned to Orange Park following high school graduation, and the two attended The University of North Florida, where Betty earned a Bachelor's of Science in Allied Health Services, a Bachelor's of Science in Secondary education, and a Master's of Science in Allied Health Services. Betty and Jeff married in 1978 and later had three children. Aside from family, Betty's second love was Orange Park High School. She spent 36 years as a teacher at OPHS where she touched so many lives.

Following retirement, Betty stayed close to education volunteering regularly at Paterson Elementary, where her grands attend school as well as volunteering to mentor students through The YMCA Take Stock in Children.

**Jennifer Margaret Oken**  
**Epsilon Chapter**  
**District V**  
**March 12, 2023**  
**Surfside, Florida**

Jennifer Margaret Oken, age 82, of Surfside, Florida, passed away on March 12, 2023. She was born on April 13, 1940.

Jennifer was a popular and insightful mathematics teacher at the



Cushman School, Miami Country Day School, and Norland Senior High School. She was respected and liked by all her students. She was also a popular tutor for all the math courses at the Wolfson Campus of Miami-Dade College.

Since May of 1981, Jennifer was a loyal member of Epsilon Chapter. Even though she lived quite a distance from where most meetings were held, she was always in attendance. She coordinated the chapter's World Fellowship program, organized collection dates, and gave an annual presentation on the purpose of the program. She also researched recipients and presented that information to the chapter.

**Barbara Jean Roush  
Beta Mu Chapter  
District II  
August 9, 2023  
Orange Park, Florida**



Born October 26, 1939, Barbara Jean Roush, age 92, passed away on August 9, 2023 in Middleburg, FL. She was preceded in death by her husband, Cdr. Randall C. Roush. She retired from the Clay County School System having served as a teacher and assistant principal at the W.E. Cherry Elementary School in Orange Park, Florida.

Barbara Jean was a member of Beta Mu Chapter for 55 years.

She contributed to the county's Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Program through her donations. The Beta Mu Chapter is the local program supporter for the local Imagination Library program. She was a member of St Luke's Catholic Church and the Clay County Retired Educators Association.

**Charlotte V. Sapp  
Phi Chapter  
District I  
May 11, 2023  
Chipley, Florida**



Charlotte Sapp of Chipley, Florida, passed away on May 11, 2023, at the age of 86. She was born on March 13, 1937. She was survived by her husband Bonnell Roush. Charlotte earned her Master's Degree in Elementary Education, teaching both in the United States and abroad. She was Teacher of the Year at Kate M. Smith Elementary School in 1984 -1985. She retired after 30 years of teaching.

Even after retirement, she volunteered at school functions and programs, and helped younger students each year with plant and garden skills.

Charlotte was an active member of Phi Chapter for 33 years. She attended numerous state workshops and conferences. She chaired numerous committees in her chapter. At the time of her

death, Charlotte served on the Communications Committee and Publicity Committee. She sent greeting cards to members. She also worked with the chairman to make sure articles for DKG events were submitted to the local newspaper. Charlotte was a basket weaver and one of her creations was on display at the State's Betty Thornton Arts and Crafts Exhibit in Orlando..

**Linda Gay Wheatley  
Phi Chapter  
District I  
June 17, 2023  
Graceville, Florida**



On June 17, 2023, at the age of 82, Linda Wheatley of Graceville, Florida, passed away. She was born on December 31, 1940, in Camden, Tennessee. She was predeceased in death by her husband, Richard French Wheatley, Jr.

Linda had her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, Master's Degree in School Administration, and an Educational Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership. She retired after 31 years, but she continued to work as a substitute teacher throughout 2013. She was Teacher of the Year at Graceville Elementary School in 2004.

Linda was an active member of Phi Chapter for 35 years and attended numerous state workshops and conferences. She served on different committees and worked on various projects in her chapter.

### 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 State Fall Executive Board Meeting  
September 22 - 23, 2023  
Orlando Marriott Lake Mary**

**District Meetings  
District I: January 20, 2024  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
Tallahassee, FL**

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

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

**District IV: April 24, 2024  
Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church  
Palm Bay, FL**

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

**District VI: February 17, 2024  
Florida SouthWestern State College  
Punta Gorda, FL**

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

**Florida DKG State Fall Executive Board Meeting  
September 19 - 20, 2024  
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)