



The Florida State Organization of DKG

# Florida Rays

Vol. 69 No. 1

Change is Healthy & Beautiful!

Summer 2023

## State Announces Biennium Awards Marlisa Santos, Awards Committee Chair santosm@nova.edu

The Florida DKG State Organization Awards Committee was pleased to announce several awards for the 2021-2023 biennium. The **Media Friend of Education** award, given to an outstanding media advocate for education in the state, was presented to **Scott Maxwell**, columnist at the **Orlando Sentinel**. The incisive wittiness in his column throws



a critical light on state legislative activities, and he is not afraid

to hold lawmakers in Tallahassee accountable regarding education bills that take public dollars from public schools and place the monies elsewhere. The **Legislative Friend of Education** award, given to a legislator in the state who supports education, was presented to **State Senator Shevrin Jones** (District 35), whose committee leadership and bill introduction has shown unequivocal support for DKG concerns. He has been extremely accessible to DKG members and shares organization concerns regarding teacher pay and retention.



The State Awards Committee was also pleased to select two recipients of the Sarah B. Ferguson Achievement Award, for 2022 and 2023. The Sarah B. Ferguson Achievement Award is akin to a "lifetime achievement" recognition, honoring above-and-beyond contributions to DKG at the chapter, state, and international levels over the course of many years. **Yvonne McShay** has been a member of DKG since 2000. She has served her chapter in multiple executive board offices, including Chapter President. Through her efforts, membership increased substantially, and during her term, the chapter scholarship amount given was doubled. She has also chaired numerous chapter committees. At the state level, she was District III Director and chair of the Emergency Fund and Educational Excellence Committees. She attended all District III Meetings since initiation and presented numerous breakout sessions when requested at district and state levels, in addition to attending many regional and international meetings. Yvonne has 42 years of experience as a teacher at the secondary and college levels. She is known for tailoring her curricula for young students needing a second chance.



**Dr. Helen Popovich** was initiated into Delta Kappa Gamma in 1960 and served as chapter president for multiple biennia, as District III Director in Florida, and as state president in Michigan. She served as Parliamentarian for the Florida DKG State Organization and is currently serving in a second biennium as International Parliamentarian. She has chaired numerous committees, including the Board of Trustees International Educational Foundation and the Educational Excellence Committee, and received the International DKG Achievement Award in 2020. Outside of Delta Kappa Gamma, she had a distinguished academic career, including president of Florida Atlantic University, making her the first female president of a state university in Florida.

## 2021 - 2023 Florida State Officers

President

**Roxanne Berger**  
roxanne.berger45@gmail.com

First Vice-President

**Terry Stanilonis**  
t1stan@bellsouth.net

Second Vice-President

**Nancy Bentz**  
nbteach@protonmail.com

Recording Secretary

**Joann Higgins**  
gammanuhiggins@yahoo.com

Corresponding Secretary

**Sharon Wallen**  
Sharonwallen16@gmail.com

Parliamentarian

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

Immediate Past

State President

**Dr. Nancy Henning**  
nanhendkg@yahoo.com

The State Awards Committee selected 4 deserving recipients as new members of the Florida DKG State Hall of Fame. Its recipients are women who often toil behind the scenes, are perhaps unsung heroes, but whose efforts have been noted and appreciated by their peers over the years. **Stephanie "Sam" McCartney King**, inducted into **Gamma Nu Chapter** in 2007, currently serves as the Florida DKG State Parliamentarian and has served in numerous other roles, including District VI Director 2016-2018 and numerous chapter offices. Sam has presented training sessions at Florida DKG State Conventions, Fall Workshops, and the Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar.



**Dr. Vivian Posey** was inducted into **Pi Chapter** in 2013 and is now a member of **Beta Iota Chapter**. She has most recently served as the chair of the State Legislative Committee during the current biennium and is currently serving as Vice-President of her chapter. She had an article published in the **Collegial Exchange** and was elected Southeast Representative to the DKG U.S. Forum in July 2023.

**Kathy Raiford** was inducted into **Upsilon Chapter** in 2015 and served as **Alpha/Upsilon President** from 2015-2021. She was District II Director for the 2020-2022 biennium and has also served on the State Bylaws and Legislative Committees, as well as actively participating in the Florida state legislative advocacy since 2018.



**Dr. Rhonda Work** became a charter member of **Alpha Pi Chapter** in 1961 and has been a member of **Alpha Kappa Chapter** since 1975. She has served in several chapter roles, including president and currently treasurer, which she has held for over 20 years. She is also financial manager for the Big Bend Coordinating Council, as well as being treasurer for District I for multiple district directors. She has also been registrar for state fall meetings and the biennial convention.

The Florida DKG State Organization Awards Committee is comprised of

- Marlisa Santos, Chair** District V
- Susan Vinson** District I
- Linda Hudgens** District II
- Marilyn Olivio** District III
- Linda Garrett** District IV
- Ann-Marie Spakowski** District V

**Florida Rays**  
ISSN: 0896-3711

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

Summer 2023  
Volume 69, Number 1

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INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS  
**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™**



## Florida DKG State President's Message



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

***Change is Healthy and Beautiful!***

Congratulations to **Terry Stanilonis, Nancy Bentz, Nancy Marmesh, Mary Jo Holleran, and Joann Higgins!** **President-Elect Terry** and her team were elected at the Florida DKG State Organization's Spring Convention, and will lead our membership starting July 1, 2023, for the next biennium. They are off and running, so get your running shoes on!

The State Spring Convention was so much fun! We took care of business and had a very enjoyable three days. I hope those of you who attended will return next time and bring a chapter member with you. My three goals for the 2021-2023 biennium were:

1. Encourage everyone to read our wonderful newsletter, the **Florida Rays**.
2. Support the International SEE (Support for Early Educators) initiative.
3. District Directors will visit every district chapter.

I hope we will continue to work on these goals even after this biennium is finished.

**Dr. Helen Popovich**, DKG International Parliamentarian, brought greetings from the International staff and talked about the "SEE" program. I hope every chapter has adopted a new teacher to encourage and support.

Congratulations to the many chapters who won awards and the individuals who received grants from our Foundation. The State Hall of Fame initiates were **Sam McCartney-King, Dr. Vivian Posey, Kathy Raiford, and Rhonda Work.** **Dr. Helen Popovich** and **Yvonne McShay** were awarded the Sara B. Ferguson Achievement Award.

**Dr. Jackie Greene**, EEC Committee Chair, organized an awesome "Betty Thornton Arts & Crafts Exhibit." We had more than a hundred displays. What a talented group of women! **Bonnie Ignico Anderson** planned a beautiful Ceremony of Remembrance. Past State Presidents **Louise McMullian, Doris Nesbit, and Merle Jones** were remembered along with many chapter members. (Congratulations to Bonnie and her husband. **Past State President** and current **Executive Secretary Carrie Frye** and I attended their recent wedding. See picture on right.)



Many members were involved in the success of our Spring Convention including: **Carolyn McGowan**, registrar; **Diane Revels**, treasurer; **Linda Zeiler**, cookie maker; **Missy Jones**, webmaster; **Bonnie Kelley**, editor; **Cheryl Shambaugh**, Emergency Fund, (Donations were more than \$1,800); **Carrie Frye**, hotel liaison; **Vanessa Pinto, Ann Comforter**, the **Chorus** members; Chapter Presidents, District Directors, Committee members, State Officers, and state members.



I hope you enjoy the DKG glass and will remember the 2023 Spring Convention each time you use it. "Thanks for the Memories! Blessings to you.

*Roxanne Berger*

**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.

**Florida DKG State Organization  
Fall Executive Board Meeting  
Orland Marriott Lake Mary  
September 22-23, 2023  
Hotel Reservations**



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

**Group Reservation: Ask for 2023 FL DKG Fall Meeting September 22-23, 2023**

(Rate will be available on 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> for limited number.)

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.

**Reservation Cut-Off Date: September 1, 2023**

**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, 2023. Any reservation after this date is subject to availability and a new rate. Each member is responsible for her accommodations.**

**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 p.m.	Registration		Grand Foyer
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	FL DKG Educational Foundation		Orchid 3
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Committee Meetings (Reserved Tables)		Grand Ballroom
4:15 - 5:00 p.m.	Nominations Committee		Salon F
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Finance Committee		Orchid 2
<b>5:30 – 7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Dinner/Buffer</b>		<b>TBD</b>
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.	District I Meeting District II Meeting District III Meeting District IV Meeting District V Meeting District VI Meeting		Salon F Salon G Salon H Salon A Salon B Salon C
6:15 – 7:00 p.m.	First Timers' Meeting		Orchid 2
7:30 – 8:30 p.m.	FL DKG Education Foundational Annual Meeting		Grand Ballroom
8:45 – 9:30 p.m.	Large Group Interaction Activity		Grand Ballroom

**Saturday – September 23**

7:00 – 8:30 a.m.	Registration		Grand Foyer
8:30 – 10:00 a.m.	<b>Executive Board Meeting</b>		Salon D – E
10:15 – 11:15 a.m.	Breakout Session		
	Session: (Legislative Advocacy)		Salon A - B
	Session: (Personal/Self Advocacy)		Orchid 2 - 3
	Session: (Advocacy for DKG)		Salon G - H
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch		Grand Ballroom
12:30 – 1:45 p.m.	Panelist Presentation		Grand Ballroom

## Leadership Development

**Pat Litterick, Chair**  
plitterick@att.net

Nineteen members of The Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar Class of 2022 recently attended the 2023 Florida DKG State Convention. These DKG members range in ages from 27 to 81 years of age. They attended the convention full of energy and dedication to the Florida DKG State Organization. Eight of these 2022 Leadership Class attendees are chapter presidents and participated in the Executive Board Meeting and the General Session: **Rosalinda Collins, Beth Hess, Allyson Howell, Racquel House, Sharon Joca, Laurie Keller, Jody Steward, and Sharon Thomas**. The other eleven Leadership Class members present all hold an office in their chapters, too.



The member on the left is **Brianna Hand, Gamma Nu Chapter**, and the member on the right is **Lisa Allen**.

**Glenda Moton** spoke at the General Session giving her reflections of the 2022 Leadership Seminar. She also presented a breakout session titled "Move Your Bus: A New Approach to Accelerating Success in Work and Life." **Dr. Jackie Greene** is the chair of the Education Excellence Committee coordinating and setting up the Betty Thornton Arts/Crafts Exhibition for the convention with 46 DKG member artists participating. **Lisa Allen**, a liaison on Jackie's committee, was a big help in breaking down the exhibition. **Beth Hess** is a member of the Legislative Committee and was a presenter at their breakout session titled "Takeaways from Tallahassee: The Impact of the 2023 Legislative Session on Teachers, Students, and Educators in Florida." Four of the 2022 Leadership Class received a Florida DKG Educational Foundation grant: **Racquel House, Pat Johnson, Bobbi Kelley, and Dr. Precious Symonette**.



There was even time for the 2022 Leadership Class to honor one of their classmates, **Sharon Thomas**, with a baby shower. To add to their dedication, creativity, and energy this Leadership class presented an original song after the Saturday brunch written by **Brianna Hand** and sung by the class with the audience joining in...:

*"We are D-K-G  
All our sister's family.  
We are D-K-G  
Get up everybody and sing.  
We are D-K-G  
I've got all my sisters with me.  
We are D-K-G  
This is what we love to be-ee."*



The 2024 Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar will be held at the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary from June 9-12, 2024. Applications will be available at the Florida DKG State 2023 Fall Executive Board Meeting in September and on the DKG Florida website after that date. It will be exciting to see the impact the next 2024 Leadership Class will have on the Florida DKG State Organization!

### Necrology Report



**Bonnie Ignico Anderson, Chair**  
vbignico@gmail.com

The Celebration of Life this year honored sixty members. Three of them were past State Presidents. **Louise Mc Mullan** was introduced by **Emily Ruddell**, **Doris Nesbit** was introduced by **Joyce Cotner**, and **Merle Jones** was introduced by **Dr. Elsie Gross**. Each was remembered for their devotion to DKG and our state.

Our ushers for the service were Membership Committee members, **Neena Grosvenor** and **Anne Holzapfel**. They respectfully handed out the programs and at the end gave everyone a luggage tag with a set of angel wings to remember those who have passed. Another Membership Committee member, **Mary Jo Holleran**, read from the Book of Ecclesiasticus. Our Chorus Director and Pianist, **Vanessa Pinto**, lead our Chorus in singing "I Shall Not Pass This Way Again" and "One White Rose." She also gave us lovely music for the prelude, processional, and recessional.



All seven District Directors did a wonderful job of recognizing their district members by name and honoring them with the district's white rose.

- |                                       |                     |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Sarah Watters</b>                  | <b>District I</b>   |
| <b>Kim Baggs</b>                      | <b>District II</b>  |
| <b>Brenda Johnson</b>                 | <b>District III</b> |
| <b>Vicky Biro &amp; Debbie Phelps</b> | <b>District IV</b>  |
| <b>Betty Bunnell</b>                  | <b>District V</b>   |
| <b>DeeDee Rice</b>                    | <b>District VI</b>  |

As Necrology Chair, I read the poem "The Meaning of Prayer." Our **State President, Roxanne Berger**, opened the celebration reading the poem "I Felt an Angel." She ended our Celebration with us all going outside to sing "The Delta Kappa Gamma Song."

### 2023 Communications & Marketing Chapter Awards



**Pam Pierce, Chair**  
chillpierce@comcast.net

Congratulations to the 2023 Communication and Marketing Award winners. These chapters demonstrated excellence that is worthy of acknowledgment. This award recognizes the critical role of communications and marketing through chapter websites, social media, publicity, and chapter newsletters. The winners are:

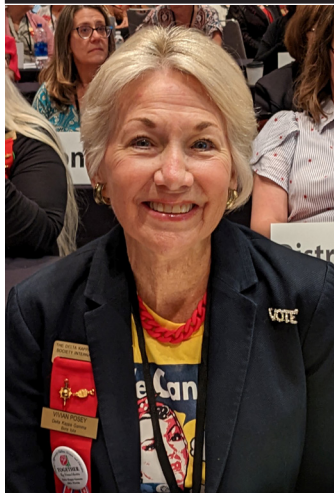
- Alpha Beta**
- Alpha Chi**
- Alpha Kappa**
- Alpha Sigma**
- Beta Alpha**
- Beta Chi**
- Beta Mu**
- Beta Omega**
- Beta Theta**
- Delta Beta**
- Delta**
- Kappa**
- Gamma Nu**
- Gamma Gamma**
- Kappa**
- Mu**
- Pi**
- Xi.**



Thank you to the Committee members who served on this committee:

- |                                  |                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Pam Pierce, Chair</b>         | <b>District II</b>  |
| <b>Elinor Mount-Simmons</b>      | <b>District I</b>   |
| <b>Yvonne McShay</b>             | <b>District III</b> |
| <b>Vicki Coats</b>               | <b>District IV</b>  |
| <b>Gussie Sakowicz</b>           | <b>District V</b>   |
| <b>Gale Carter</b>               | <b>District VI</b>  |
| <b>Bonnie Kelley, Editor</b>     | <b>District III</b> |
| <b>Missy Jones, Webmaster</b>    | <b>District IV</b>  |
| <b>Sharon Wallen, Corr. Sec.</b> | <b>District V</b>   |
| <b>Angie Wright- Nash, Cons.</b> | <b>District III</b> |





## Florida DKG Goes to the Capitol: Taking Our Message to the Legislators

**Dr. Vivian Posey, Chair  
Legislative Committee  
vivposey@gmail.com**

February 21, 2023, was a beautiful day to be in Tallahassee as a group of twenty DKG members (dressed in red!) and guests from all 6 districts gathered in a large conference room in the Senate Building to meet with elected representatives to advocate on behalf of education, women, and children. While the 2023 Florida legislative session would not officially convene until March 7, Florida senators and representatives were already preparing their legislative agendas, attending committee meetings, and engaging with constituents. It was a perfect time for DKG Day at the Capitol!

The fast-paced day began early, ended late in the afternoon, and was packed with 15-minute back-to-back meetings with legislators, representing both political parties. We are grateful to the sixteen legislators who met with us throughout the day to discuss proposed legislation aligned with the Issues of Concern of our members, and their individual legislative agendas. On Wednesday morning, additional meetings were held with those who were not available on Tuesday. During each meeting, the message sent to legislators from the Florida DKG State Organization was that our members are concerned for the mental health and wellness of students and school staff. They see the negative impact on student achievement due to an insufficient number of experienced, fully certified teachers. Additionally, DKG members believe that “permitless carry” legislation will make schools less safe. Consistent accountability and transparency measures for ALL schools in Florida that receive public tax dollars should be established.

The DKG members who made this journey to Tallahassee represent a total of 763 years of experience as educators! Their knowledge, insight, and keen observations made this a most productive DKG Day at the Capitol, 2023!



DKG members and guests meet with Florida District 94 Representative Daryl Campbell.



## **Parliamentary Moment: Let's Discuss Parliamentary Procedure Stephanie (Sam) King, PRP Parliamentarian gammanuking@gmail.com**

How is your chapter transacting business? Have your meetings become more of a social interaction than a meeting?

Unfortunately, there is a world of difference between a fun social gathering and a business meeting. You definitely would not want to go to a non-structured (social) meeting of a PTA, School Board, church, or women's group if they weren't organized. This also holds true for your chapter meetings.

We have all heard that "it takes a village to raise a child." It takes participation from the members to have a great meeting. That even includes the one member who attended, never said anything, didn't vote, but her attendance made a quorum so that the business meeting could be held.

Why do I worry about your chapter and how you are interacting? I worry because every year, and recently at the Spring Convention, there are chapters that are merging, and sometimes even worse, dissolving.

We are teachers! We are not afraid to stand in front of a classroom of elementary, middle school, or even high schoolers! Then why is it so hard to chair a meeting in front of our peers?

It is because we know the rules of the classroom and who is in charge. My position, as the State Parliamentarian, is to assist the President at meetings. I would like to be able to reach out to you, your officers, and members and host a Zoom training class once a month. If one person is interested and able to attend, then that is one more person to feel comfortable with presiding or being an officer or member.

For the first session on Zoom, I would like to discuss, ***Planning for Great Meetings: Who is Responsible?***

Contrary to public opinion, it takes those assembled to run a meeting; the presiding officer is only the director of the meeting. I relate the presiding officer to an air traffic controller; nothing good happens if they are not in control of the meeting.

Mark your calendar for **Wednesday, August 2nd from 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM**. Email me at **gammanuking@gmail.com**

and I will send you a link and a reminder before the meeting. I know how easy it is to lose those pesky emails that hold Zoom links within them.

### **This is what you have to do to prepare for our first Zoom meeting:**

1. What organizations are you a member of? i.e. DKG, Church, Clubs, or Units?
2. What position do you hold in these organizations?
3. What is confusing or scary about Robert's Rules of Order to you?

### **Per Robert's Rules of Order (12th ed.) pg. xlix, these rules are based on a regard for the rights:**

1. of the majority,
2. of the minority, especially a strong minority, greater than one third,
3. of the individual members,
4. of the absentees, and
5. of all these together.



***Don't forget! Planning for Great Meetings: Who is Responsible?  
Wednesday, August 2nd from 7:00 - 8:00 PM  
Email: gammanuking@gmail for the Zoom link***

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

## Florida DKG Educational Foundation

### Vicki Simms, Director

[vickis@cfl.rr.com](mailto:vickis@cfl.rr.com)

The Florida DKG Educational Foundation Grants and Awards Committee is happy to announce the funding of seven Educational Grants for 2023. The maximum amount for this grant is \$1,000. Activity for the awards will take place between April 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024. To date the Florida DKG Educational Foundation has given 13 Professional Development Awards and 23 Educational Awards. A total of \$34,154.92 has been awarded.

**Raquel House, Beta Alpha**, will focus on helping students develop better interpersonal skills. Before and after-school time will be used to engage in playing board games. Person-to-person games create optimal techniques for social interaction. As students evidence a growth in their understanding of how to converse and collaborate, they receive a ticket to the game room. There they enjoy a "Fun Friday" or "Wacky Wednesday."



**Delta Eta member Pat Johnson** will "Energize Pre-Schoolers with the Wonders of Science." Using her collection of sands from around the world, Pat will introduce the National Geographic series "Jump into Science." Pat's grant funds will increase the number of microscopes per classroom in order that 3 and 4-year-old students experience that "ah-ha" moment when they see crystals for the first time.

"Touching Lives by Teaching Music," the grant proposal submitted by **Mary Keip, Alpha Rho**, provides recorders for 4 fifth grade Title One classes. FLDKGEF funding will outfit her school's students with their own personal recorders. Students can now take their recorders home for practice. The new, full year program will again be a regular part of the fifth grade music awareness curriculum. A final performance offers to demonstrate the success of the

program for parents and colleagues.

**Bobbi Kelley, Lambda**, in Lakeland requested funds with which to purchase furniture for an "Explorer's Corner" in her school media center. This comfy space will promote Reading during "wait time" before school, reading time in the media center, and allow grades 3-5 access to the reading corner. Using the Florida Standardized Assessment ELA results, Bobbi will measure the increase in reading proficiency due to the supportive learning environment the Explorer's area provided. This program affects a significant proportion of the population of the Title One School.

**Patricia Layton, Alpha Rho**, proposed to create classroom libraries that will support new readers in grade 1 and 2 using age appropriate, leveled texts. With Scholastic books bundles, Patricia will fill her library with both fiction and non-fiction books. In addition, providing a discussion opportunity among readers, as well as an independent reading area, will further support increasing the reading choices available to her students.

**Susan Peters**, Atlantic Beach, implemented "Curtain Up!! Light the Lights!!" Her drama program works in collaboration with the local theater "Players by the Sea". As Susan said, "Individuals look forward to this weekly class and the culminating production. Students are learning presentation skills, gaining confidence on stage, and communication skills behind the scenes. This summer a video component will show the students the before and after growth they gained.

April brought Miami Norland Senior High School's first "International Poetry Festival" using funds awarded to **Dr. Precious Symonette, Pi**. Her aim is to elevate student voices and bridge communication gaps in students of different ethnicities, races, and age – all using poetry. Students, faculty, staff and the community participated in "pop-up" poetry performances and placed poetry posters on campus as they kept the Poetry Festival prominent throughout April.

Share your wish with FLDKGEF by submitting an application available online beginning September 1, 2023. You can choose an Educational Grant that supports activities and materials for classroom needs for active or retired educators or a Professional Development Award to educators for training relating to their aspirations for professional growth. Check out the website for details at [www.fldkgef.org](http://www.fldkgef.org). The deadline is February 1, 2024. "Your wish is granted! We can fund that!"

## Embracing our Vision- Designing Our Future Carrie Frye – Florida DKG State Organization President 2011-2013

Other than the biennium of 1999-2001, all past living state organization presidents, whose histories have been published, have been featured in the *Florida Rays*. This is an opportunity to pause briefly and reflect on the accomplishments of those who carried the torch before us.

**Carrie Frye** was one of 11 children and the only one to earn a college degree. She obtained a Master's in Elementary Education. Between 1964 and 2010, she taught or served as administrator for most grade levels, while working in educational environments in Florida, Missouri, Georgia, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand.

Serving as officers during Carrie's exemplary term as president were **Merle Jones, Gerry Hacker, Dr. Peg Dunn Snow, Dr. Nancy Henning, Myra Ponder, and Beverly Stagg**. Related personnel who also served included **Dr. Beverly Helms, Fay Murphy, Bonnie Kelley, Judith Mix, and Kristen Sternberg**. Members who served as state committee chairs included **Dr. Ann Lumsden, Linda Pinkerton, LeAnn Pollard, Dr. Margie Hunt, Donna Heald, Angie Williams, Carol Ann Casey, Pat Eckstein, Ruth Pridgen, Sandra Smith, Joann Higgins, Kathy Avery, Deborah Thomas, Ann Blossfield, and Barbara Van Diepen**.



**Carrie** implemented a Friday night social during Fall Workshop, set into motion the sale of the state headquarters, created the Orange Blossom Ambassadors, and worked with **Merle Jones** to implement the initial contract with the Marriott Hotel in Lake Mary. At her Executive Board meeting in 2011, Carrie reported 183 members in attendance. The 2012 district meetings were held in Pensacola, Jacksonville, New Port Richey, Okeechobee, Boca Raton, and Arcadia. The 2012 Fall Executive Board and Workshop was held with 250 members and guests in attendance.

International appointments during her biennium included **Ann Blossfield, World Fellowship Committee; Dr. Peg Dunn Snow, Communications and Publicity; and Ruth Pridgen, Educational Excellence Committee**. Carrie orchestrated the 2013 Southeast Regional Conference in Florida. During Carrie's service as state organization president, **Dr. Elsie Gross** served as Chair of the International DKG Board of Trustees for the Educational Foundation, and **Dr. Beverly Helms** served as International President.

**Ginny Hunter** was selected as the Star of the Southeast.



**Margaret Goodman, Geraldine DeFelix, and Missy Jones** received international scholarships and **Lisa Burke, Jan Graham, Janet Whalen, and Melissa LaPointe** received **Coronet Awards** from the International Educational Foundation. **Sandy Byars, Geraldine DeFelix, Lonnie Kirsch, Clancy O'Donnell, Evelyn Stephens, Deborah Thomas, and Rose Ann Verheyen** were inducted into the **Florida DKG Hall of Fame**.

Thank you, Carrie, for your dynamic leadership as state organization president 2011-2013, and as Florida **DKG Executive Secretary**, since July 2017. You are appreciated.

## Reflections From 2023 Florida DKG State Convention

**Sharon Wallen, Pi Chapter  
State Corresponding Secretary  
srawallen@icloud.com**



I left the State Convention feeling motivated, positive, and uplifted. FRIENDSHIP was a huge hallmark of my experiences this past weekend. I experienced great kindness.

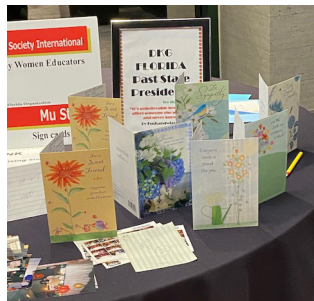
The Past State Presidents' card table was a great social place for us. Many thanks to Peggy DuBose's generosity for donating multiple photos for our membership to choose and take. The concepts of safety, kindness, and caring were evident in that action.



Conversations and approach continuously showed that we are seen. I walked away with your kind expressions and your feedback to me about my service, my personality, and my recent work among us. We are motivated to serve in this beautiful, relevant, and purposeful International Society of Women Educators.

There was such a smooth and peaceful transition between the end of biennium 2021-2023 and the start of 2023-2025. I'm forever grateful to dear leaders and my friends, **Miriam Mades**, **Linda Lentin**, and **Patricia Parham** who all sponsored me into DKG membership in 1993. Thanks, Ladies, because DKG membership not only impacted my professional and personal life but today, still enriches my life and gives me strong purpose in the field of Education. That's really so empowering.

Congratulations to **Terry Stanilonis** and incoming State Officers 2023-2025 for your passionate plan



and outlook for Florida's future. Congratulations to **Roxanne Berger** and outgoing State Officers for your achievements in biennium 2021-2023. I'm excited about our state's road ahead in Delta Kappa Gamma.

## State Nominations Committee



**Ruth Burrell, Chair  
osprey3811@bellsouth.net**

The members of the State Nominations Committee, along with their respective districts are:

- |                            |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Ruth Burrell, Chair</b> | <b>District II</b>  |
| <b>Kathy Diesner</b>       | <b>District II</b>  |
| <b>Angela Wright-Nash</b>  | <b>District III</b> |
| <b>Karen Metalonis</b>     | <b>District IV</b>  |
| <b>Carleen Spano</b>       | <b>District V</b>   |
| <b>Ann-Marie Spakowski</b> | <b>District VI</b>  |

The task of this committee was to select a proposed slate of officers to present to the executive board to be voted upon at the April 2023 State Convention to serve for the 2023-2025 biennium.

The State Nominations Committee met several times via Zoom to go over the candidates' applications.

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

If there were two candidates for a position, it was up to the committee to determine who was the most qualified. The committee also maintains records, forms, and applications that are updated for use by future State Nominations Committees. At convention, members of the committee presented the slate of officers, as well as participated in the installation of incoming officers and thanked the outgoing officers.



**Florida  
State Organization**

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## Incoming State Officers, 2023 - 2025

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### President



**Terry Stanilonis**  
**terrystanilonis@gmail.com**

Commitment and loyalty require dedication and determination to lead the Florida State Organization into the future. The way of working is changing due to technological advancements. Our state organization must continue updating our protocols, tools, and training to maximize our efforts to successfully recruit "key" women educators.

My fondness and gratitude to our mature members are factors to keep in mind. We must bridge the generational divide to accommodate long-time, committed members as we transition to an electronic format to become competitive with other organizations. Relying on the Mission and Vision of DKG to support today's women educators through a modern lens ensures that the legacy of the Florida DKG State Organization makes a difference for future educators. I hope to offer opportunities to inspire members to appreciate the uniqueness of DKG and the power this organization embodies to change one's life for the better.

Obtaining two advanced degrees in School Guidance and Educational Leadership is my framework for enhancing organizational management, communication, and people skills. I transitioned from being an elementary classroom teacher after 17 years to a guidance counselor at both the elementary and secondary settings. My career took a different path when I was interviewed and hired as an Instructional Personnel Specialist within the Human Resources Division of the Clay County School District. In 2010, I assumed the position of Supervisor for Instructional Personnel. This assignment expanded my educator client base to include working alongside personnel in Finance, Payroll, Insurance, Technology, and Law Enforcement.

### First Vice-President



**Nancy Bentz**  
**nbenteach@protonmail.com**

I have chaired two state committees, the Florida DKG Educational Foundation and the Legislative Committee. On the initial committee for the Florida DKG Educational Foundation, I worked with Dr. Gross on the Bylaws and 501(c)3.

The Legislative Committee has grown to be a strong group of devoted and knowledgeable members. Approximately 250 members have traveled with the committee organizers to advocate in Tallahassee.

I attended Ignite, an international leadership program at the University of Texas, as well as our state's leadership seminar. Ignite was formerly known as Golden Gift. The program, held 6 days a week, consisted of 3 classes a day on the topics of communication and leadership.

I serve on local legislative and community committees, and my school's leadership committees including the Equity Team Leadership and our school improvement instructional leadership team. I started programs at my school, such as the Green Team for students and adults and helped develop the MTSS system for academic and behavior plans. I am regularly tasked with taking a project and developing it from the start. The Green Teams and MTSS are currently running with integrity and thoroughness.

This year's project was to increase our focus on science. I built a science lab as well as teaching 3rd-5th graders using a variety of hands-on lab experiences. I have a gardening program for students to teach sustainability including aeroponic gardening. My leadership, particularly in the areas of organizing and implementing innovative programs, is a strength.

## Incoming State Officers, 2023 - 2025

### Second Vice-President



**Nancy Marmesh**  
nmarmesh@aol.com

I feel that my skills and experience will enable me to make a real contribution to the state leadership team. I have creative ideas, and I am committed to supporting goals that will help DKG members and chapters grow and thrive.

I have worked in many leadership positions during my time in DKG and feel these experiences have prepared me for the State Second Vice President position. At the state level, I have served the following:

- Bylaws Chair, 2021-2023
- Recording Secretary, 2019-2021
- Membership/Expansion Chair, 2017-2019
- Bylaws Committee, 2011-2013
- Personal Growth Committee, 2009-2011
- Mu State Leadership Growth Seminar, 2008

At the district level, I held the following positions:

- District V Director, 2014-2016
- Miami-Dade Orientation Presenter, 2011-2020
- Miami-Dade Coordinating Council, 2006-2010

At the chapter level, I held the following offices:

- Pi Chapter President, 2006-2010
- First & Second Vice-President
- Historian
- Newsletter Editor

At the chapter level, I served on the following committees:

- Nominations Chair
- Communications and Marketing Chair
- Chapter Rules Chair
- Finance Committee

Other specific leadership experiences included workshop presenter at district, state, and Southeast Regional on the topics of Bylaws and Membership.

### Recording Secretary



**Mary Jo Holleran**  
mholleran8890@gmail.com

Currently, I am serving as chair of the State Membership Expansion Committee. As the State Educational Excellence Committee Chair from 2017-2019, I proposed and coordinated the planning and implementation of breakout sessions at each district meeting and state workshop. It also included the State Emergency Fund. Attending chapter, district, state, and international events has deepened my understanding and respect for the Society and its 7 purposes.

During the last 18 years of my 37 year career in education, I worked with every student in grades 9-12 at Lemon Bay High School as they explored career and academic paths toward post-high school graduation placement. Often this involved individual and group meetings with students and parents, and partnerships with local professionals in a variety of careers to introduce students to opportunities to volunteer, find employment, and job shadow. This position also required me to coordinate an annual \$500,000 local scholarship program with the support of community and business leaders, civic groups, and fellow staff.

When Google's "classic" website platform was phased out in 2021, I volunteered to take over the position. I created our current website using Google's updated platform and maintain it regularly. As chapter president from 2020-2022, I used my technology skills on a regular basis to communicate with my executive board and with the general membership of our chapter. Zoom became second nature, and I continue to meet virtually to participate in chapter and state committee business. I am extremely comfortable with technology and self-teach to stay current with the latest developments.

## Incoming State Officers, 2023-2025

### Corresponding Secretary



**JoAnn T. Higgins**  
gammanuhiggins@yahoo.com

Currently, I am State Recording Secretary for the last 2 bienniums. As of July 1, 2023, I will serve as State Corresponding Secretary for the 2023-2025 biennium.

I was inspired by wonderful women educators in DKG when I was inducted into **Gamma Nu Chapter** and taken to my first State Convention. I became Gamma Nu's First Vice-President, and then Chapter President serving two consecutive terms. **Past State President Carol Ann Casey** asked me to chair the Betty Thornton Arts & Crafts Gallery. I was asked to be the State Necrology Chair during Carol Ann's biennium. I also served as Co-Director and Director of District VI for 2 consecutive terms. I served on the following state committees: Nominations, Communications, Educational Excellence, Awards, and the Membership Expansion Committees.

I established my passion for education as a teacher at a high school and middle school. I was chosen as Teacher of the Year at my school. I served in many leadership roles demonstrating communication skills. As an educator, I lead my Language Arts and Reading Department. As a coach and mentor, I encouraged beginning and seasoned educators in their craft and assisted in their lesson planning and staff development. My experience from grades K-12 as a Staff Developer and Mentor for 4 years led me to accept the vice-principal position at a Pre-K – 6 elementary school.

As a Supervisor of Student Interns for Florida Gulf Coast University, I experienced first hand the Zoom meeting format which I used for Gamma Nu's chapter meetings during the past pandemic.

### Parliamentarian



**Stephanie (Sam) McCartney King**  
gammanuking@gmail.com

*"A great meeting takes more time to plan than to present."*

I will continue another biennium as State Parliamentarian. My first goal is to encourage members to learn and utilize parliamentary procedures. The other is to encourage chapters to find, update, and refer to their Chapter Rules.

During my 2021-2023 biennium, I:

1. Reviewed scripts for the Florida State meetings.
2. Assisted the Bylaws Committee to prepare the amendments to the Florida State Bylaws and Standing Rules.
3. Submitted parliamentary hints that were published in the Florida Rays, under the heading of "Parliamentary Moments."
4. Presented at the June 2022 Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar "Alpha-Omega DKG Chapter - Using a Meeting Script."
5. Attended the Florida State Convention and Fall Executive Board Meeting and Workshops..
6. Completed continuing education courses required to maintain the Professional Registered Parliamentarian (PCP) certification.

My recommendations for the future include the following:

1. Offer one hour trainings for the chapter officers and members via Zoom on a monthly basis.
2. Encourage chapter executive boards to work as a team to support each officer and their position.
3. Propose that each chapter have a parliamentarian and that person is part of the chapter executive board and attends all board meetings.



## Sharing Chapter Experiences

### Alpha Beta Chapter

Alpha Beta is poised to be the poster chapter for change! The change we seek is being reflected in our chapter policies, programming, people, and perspectives. By choosing to expand our world view, we can become more inclusive and relevant today, while maintaining the traditional mission, vision, and purposes of DKG.

A clear example of our intentional inclusivity and positive change was demonstrated at our chapter meeting, on February 11, 2023, at PossAbilities Plus. During the meeting, member, **Kathy Poe**, and **Director Susan Peters** told stories of their shared vision to create a safe workplace and social space for young adults with Autism and other learning challenges.

Following the meeting, members enjoyed a lovely luncheon and tea in the Cup of Dreams Tearoom. From the specialized menus to table service, the evidence of training was quite apparent. It was a truly delightful experience! We enjoyed hearty and tasty sandwiches, chips, a variety of delectable desserts, coffee, and teas. Wearing the fancy, vintage hats displayed in the tearoom, we were school girls once more playing tea party.



After lunch, Kathy introduced some of the students and shared their phenomenal successes. One young man was a college graduate, and another young lady was awarded a college scholarship to FSU. Our chapter donated Happy Dollars to the students. There was much happiness in the room. As we were leaving, we sifted through items in the thrift shop where one could find just about anything under the sun. Another way by which PossAbilities provides work and earnings for these young adults. We left feeling better about ourselves, and the "PossAbilities" of Alpha Beta, DKG, and the world.

Our March meeting was held at the University Park Branch Public Library. The devotional was led by **Barbara Thompson** who also shared the history and little-known facts about St. Patrick. Who knew that he was captured by Irish pirates from his home in Britain and taken as a slave to Ireland? The meeting was conducted by **President Linda Zeiler**. Discussions of

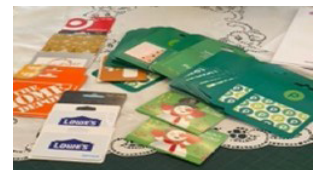
upcoming events included: Alpha Beta's Grants-in-Aid, Induction Ceremony, Spring Conference in Lake Mary, Committee Meetings, New Member Orientation. Wow! Our calendar is tight! By the looks of new member applications, we will have more hands to share the opportunities. **Rondia Leach**, **Bonnie McCarthy**, and **Linda Zeiler** provided a lovely table of delicious food and drink. We always have fun while we learn, and food is usually a part of the entertainment.

In honor of Women's History Month, we played Jeopardy on the big screen. All the Jeopardy answers were women of diverse fields, ethnicities, and countries. Three teams were formed, and team names chosen. While all teams played well, in the end, the Golden Girls won first place. Going for gold was a good idea. **Linda Zeiler** had prizes for the winners and a surprise for me for posting on Facebook. She is a prize, as are other leaders who seek to be intentionally inclusive and bring about positive change.



### Xi Chapter

Broward County, on the southeast Florida coast, is always well aware of the possibility of a hurricane doing significant, possibly catastrophic, damage to our area. This year we were spared of all but very localized damage from tornadoes spinning along the edge of Hurricane Ian. No such luck for our DKG sisters in southwestern Florida.



The news media had 24 hour coverage of the cities ravaged by Ian's winds and water pummeling cities including Venice, North Port, Port Charlotte, Punta Gorda, Englewood, Fort Myers, North Fort Myers, Myers Beach, Lehigh Acres, Bonita Springs, Cape Coral and others.



## Sharing Chapter Experiences

### Beta Alpha Chapter



**Megan "Kiki" Bishop** is a brand-new member to DKG. She joined our Beta Alpha Chapter of District V in December of 2022. Kiki is an educational support paraprofessional at HHE and has held this position for 8 years. Kiki and I first met while working Saturday school tutoring. It was at this time that Kiki shared with me the story of her son Taylor and the nonprofit organization she created in his memory. In 2021 at the tender age of 4, Taylor passed away after a single engine airplane malfunctioned mid-flight and crashed into Kiki's car. Taylor's Teddy Bears is a nonprofit organization that supplies first responders with stuffed animals to hand out to children in stressful, non-life threatening emergencies as a way to comfort the children. Kiki attended the spring state convention and was a presenter during break out session two. During her presentation, she shared information about her nonprofit and expressed her enthusiasm about her goals for her future with DKG. If you are interested in having Kiki speak to your chapter, she can be reached at [meganb@taylorsteddybears.org](mailto:meganb@taylorsteddybears.org)

**Lauren Horowitz** is also a new member of our chapter, Beta Alpha of District V. She joined in January 2023 and instantly knew she wanted to share her project with others. She presented "Sarah Finds Her Way" at one of our chapter meetings, and we all loved it. "Sarah Finds Her Way" is about a young girl with a disability starting her first day in a new school. Sarah comes to life in the form of an animatronic puppet as her story is read aloud. Through the book, Sarah sings her song that helps her overcome her obstacles and teaches her new friend how to accept assistance from others when all seems too difficult. The motto shared in the book is "You can do anything; you just need a plan, so ask for some help, and shout "Yes I can!" Lauren presented at the Florida Spring Convention during a breakout session on Saturday afternoon. Her presentation was loved by all who attended. If you would like to know more



about Lauren and Sarah, please reach out to Lauren at [horowitz.lauren2@gmail.com](mailto:horowitz.lauren2@gmail.com).

**Jennifer Wilson** is a third new member to our Beta Alpha chapter of District V. She joins us with a remarkable story. Here is her story as she tells it. "As I watched news coverage of the devastating Russian attacks on Ukraine during Spring of 2022, I felt a strong desire to help displaced families. During my exploration of ways to help, I came across a grassroots effort called "Ukraine Take Shelter." The website connected fleeing Ukrainians with people around the world willing to provide homes for them. Since my husband and I have 2 extra bedrooms, I signed us up. On Tuesday, April 5, I was contacted by Anna,



who was seeking shelter for her and her family who informed me they would arrive on Saturday. We quickly prepared for their arrival. When we picked the family up at the Miami airport five days later (due to immigration delays), we instantly transitioned from

# Sharing Chapter Experiences

strangers to friends to family! A week later, Anna's mother joined us after a 6 day journey, which included walking across the Mexican boarder into San Diego from Tijuana. In the evenings and on weekends, we eat dinner together, play games, watch movies (often with Russian subtitles), and go to the beach. Over a year later, we are one big, happy family!

## Beta Sigma Chapter



Beta Sigma Chapter of DKG hosted a fun Bunco fundraising event in Melbourne Village. Money received through ticket sales and the 50/50 drawing was donated to Sabal Elementary to help teachers and students with much needed supplies. Thank you to all members who supported, organized, and attended this good cause of helping education.



Twenty-two members of Beta Sigma chapter celebrated Founders Day today at a meeting followed by a luncheon at Hilton Oceanfront Melbourne Beach. A beautiful tribute was given to each of our Founders by reading a short version of their biographies and lighting a candle in tribute to them. President Susan Mc Keown and our officers presented an interesting meeting with highlights of the chapter's activities. **District IV Co-Directors Vicky Biro and Debbie Phelps** gave an insight of what is being planned for our District IV meeting in April 2024 in Palm Bay. Members in attendance got involved with suggesting ideas to go along with our theme .

## Delta Beta Chapter

Delta Beta's Educational Partnership Committee hit a home run again this year! The committee was able to assemble a panel of principals to share their perspectives about what it looks and feels like at the helm in Polk County Schools in 2023.



Mrs. Antonette Kirby from Lincoln Avenue Academy shared the unique challenges associated with educating students in a Magnet school. With today's changing standards of measurement, they must compete while raising their own funding. Once funding is raised, another challenge is the lack of specific quality resources. Educators show growth in students who already score in the highest range while financing programs that are truly "out of the box."

The vast contrast in educator challenges came from Johna Jozwiak who is Socrum Elementary School's principal. Socrum is a turnaround school located near The Green Swamp where internet connection is highly unreliable for many students. Some have no connection at all in their homes. Even though the internet is available at school, neither wired nor wireless can be accessed in their homes. Take home computers/devices do not benefit students who have no tower nearby.

Both principals exhibited a deep commitment to the success of each student in their respective schools. They seemed ready to "go the distance" to make dreams come true not only for the school but for the academic success of each individual student.

## Members in Southeast Region Invited to Attend DKG International in Phoenix

# PHOENIX IS CALLING...

## Join DKG members in Phoenix July 18-22, 2023

- Experience the native culture at the Gila River Community
- Win prizes during the Bingo Trivia Night
- Enjoy dynamic keynote speakers
- Learn new skills at a variety of workshops
- Browse and shop at the Society Expo
- Explore the various resort amenities



Now is the time to register! Go to [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org) or snap the QR code.



### An Opportunity to Make a Difference

#### Now Accepting Applications for the Position of DKGIEF Director

The future growth of DKGIEF depends on the **skills** and **experiences** of elected DKGIEF directors and their **level of passion** for the vision of the Foundation to “educate the world.”

DKGIEF Directors manage the following funds for the purposes of fundraising, investment, donor management, and distribution of awards:

Scholarship	World Fellowship	International Speakers	Emergency	Cornetet
Eunah Temple Holden	Educational Projects	Golden Gift	Educators Book Award	

If you are passionate about the DKGIEF’s mission and have the skill set to contribute to the work of the Foundation, we urge you to apply to become a DKGIEF director. General information and application can be found on the DKGIEF webpage or use the QR code below.



# THE ARTS



## Florida Artist Featured in DKG International Gallery of Fine Arts:



**Susan G. Salesses**  
Chapter President  
Beta Iota Chapter  
District III  
Clearwater, Florida  
[smags457@gmail.com](mailto:smags457@gmail.com)

On March 16, 2023, Irene Maskaly, Chair of the DKG International Arts & Humanities Jury thanked **Susan Salesses** of Clearwater, Florida, by email for being among the entrants of the January 15-February 15, 2023, submission period. Irene congratulated Susan on her photographs, "Morning at the Pier" and "Bursting Sunrise" being accepted into the DKG Fine Arts Gallery.

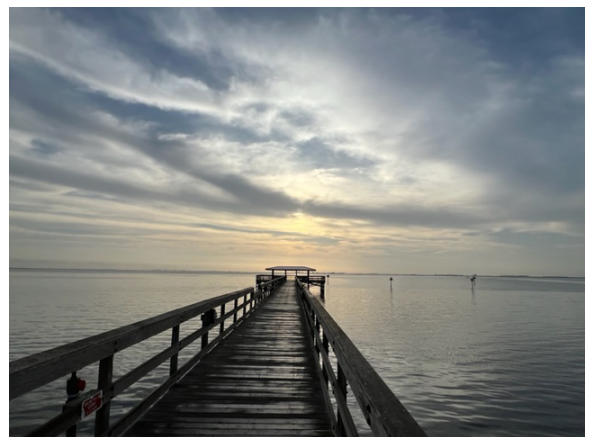
A copy of the announcement was sent to our **State President Roxanne Berger**, **State Webmaster Missy Jones**, and **State Newsletter Editor Bonnie Kelley**, DKG International unveiled their new Fine Arts Gallery in mid-April. Susan's work will



be displayed on the gallery for six months, after which it will be archived for two years.

Another opportunity for members to showcase their art work is at the DKG International 2023 Conference or 2024 Convention Expo. If you are interested in participating in either of these events, please complete the Google form that is now available on the DKG website under the conference page.

All DKG members are encouraged to submit their artwork during the next submission period from August 15 – September 15, 2023. International has had great interest in the Art Gallery and considers it to be an especially important venture for the Society. Congratulations, Susan, for your accomplishments.





## Betty Thornton Arts Exhibition 2023

### Dr. Jackie Greene, Educational Excellence Chair

[jgreene@fgcu.edu](mailto:jgreene@fgcu.edu)

The biennial celebration of the Betty Thornton Arts & Crafts exhibition took place at the Florida DKG State Spring Convention on April 28-29, 2023. By all accounts, the exhibition was a spectacular success. There were over 100 individual items on display representing the work of 40 individual DKG members. Attendance at the exhibition was steady but spaced out so attendees could meander through with thoughtful appreciation for the creativity on display. The total number of exhibition attendees was 113.

We are all aware that DKG members are busy, thoughtful, and engaged women; however, the variety of talent on display can only be described as phenomenal. Paintings of every size, shape, and subject caught one's eye from the entrance to the exit. **Bonnie Ignico Anderson's study of the New Smyrna Beach Causeway At Night** was particularly striking in the way she captured the menace of dark clouds contrasting with the shimmering moonlight on the water. Her painting caused attendees to discuss what theme she was trying to express; but the overall theme was "thoughtful beauty."



Glass seems to be a popular and new art material. **Kim Baggs' study of life through her Shattered Glass** pieces was another showstopper. Her pieces combined thoughtful phrases about life's ups and downs with



beautiful designs using shattered glass pieces. The combination evoked real life challenges and triumphs that motivated conversations among the visitors. Her work reminded me of this quote attributed to Pi-

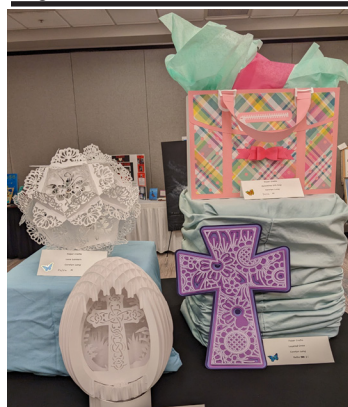
casso, "Art washes from the soul the dust of everyday life." **Gamma Iota Chapter's Inspirational Sea Glass Art** pieces made DKG sisters excited about a project they could replicate. All 13 little scenes were not only

colorful but told evocative stories using simple shapes and natural materials. Rounding out the glass exhibits was **Cynthia Tehan's fused glass pieces**. Their uniqueness reminded me of a quote from Fromm, "Creativity requires the courage to let go of certainties."



Writers seemed to be in abundance this year, **a novel series by Virginia Czaja** (nom de plume Virginia Crane) caused quite a stir as did **a memoir by Kathy Marsh** who invited attendees to share their stories with her, a children's book, and **poems by Elinor Mount-Simmons** rounded out the literary works. Each unique and thought provoking.

Needlecrafts were in abundance, quilts, crochet, crewel embroidery, counted cross-stitch, and card embroidery filled the room with color and reminded attendees that art is often laborious. I would imagine the hours of work represented by each of the needlecraft exhibits would total in the thousands. Each was unique, Some celebrated births, some reminded us of past times when women created beautiful artifacts that had a practical purpose, some represented the style royal families used to embellish their robes and gowns, and all represented the blending of beauty with practicality.



**Carolyn Lang's paper crafts** taught attendees the power of "simple paper" as an art resource, along with her Cricket machine and her eye for design. Her work reminded me of something Andy Warhol said about art, "Everything has its beauty, but not everyone sees it." Carolyn's work certainly showcased the beauty hidden in paper! Recycled paper and greeting cards were given another life by **Pat Smith**. Her "recycled greeting cards" were lovely and practical plus they give joy to recipients; how do I know? Because, I have been on the receiving end. Creativity brings light and joy into the world in small, meaningful ways. Perhaps the most unique blending of art and practicality was **Linda**



**Petuch's scrapbook memoir** of her kitchen talents. It was a feast for the eyes!

I will round out this review by asking each reader to imagine the items shared in this short review along with the list of other exhibits, African and Byzantine jewelry, beaded bracelets, porcelain dolls, photographs, and hooked rugs. Each of the 100 items were showstoppers, each reminded us of the talent within our ranks, and each represented "art is not what you see, but what you make others see" (Degas). Start planning now for the next Betty Thornton Art & Craft Exhibit; it is only 2 years away. What talents do you have, what beauty do you create that brings joy to others? Think about exhibiting your work! It will bring joy and beauty into the lives of your DKG sisters.



A huge THANKS goes to the EEC Committee Members who helped set up the exhibit, served as docents, and helped dismantle the items. Without your helping hands the exhibit would not have occurred.



**Delta Kappa Gamma Society International**

## **Phoenix Conference**

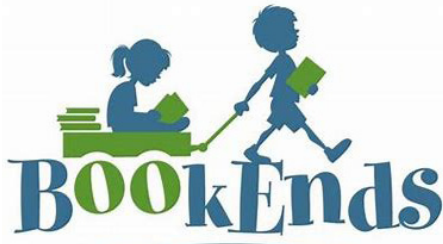
**VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE  
YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

### **YOU CAN**

- **Play an important role in making the DKG Phoenix Conference a success.**
- **Greet and assist conference attendees in your volunteer position.**
- **Be a part of an international conference.**
- **Give as much of your time as you are able in order to make this event a wonderful experience for you and your colleagues.**

**Click the link below to volunteer!**

**[Delta Kappa Gamma Society International: Phoenix Conference \(signupgenius.com\)](http://signupgenius.com)**



### Three Authors from the Leadership Class of 2022

#### Beth Murdock Hess, Brianna Hand & Racquel House

During a baby shower for **Sharon Thomas** at the Florida DKG State Organization's Spring Convention in Lake Mary, three children's books, which were written, edited, and designed by three members of the 2022 Leadership Class, were gifted to Sharon and her new baby, CJ. Check out the three books for yourself! These great reads were all self-published and available for purchase on Amazon..

***A Better Ewe*** written by **Beth Murdock Hess**.

***Chico the Chihuahua*** written and illustrated by **Brianna Hand**.

***Abigail's Adventures*** edited and designed by **Racquel House**.

Publishing a book on Amazon is a rather simple and exciting process. What a great way to easily share a book you have written! Amazon walks you step by step through the process of selecting exactly how you want your book to look. You have the option of creating a printed book and/or digital book for sale on Kindle. Uploading pictures is a smooth process to accompany your text, too. You control everything about your book including the final purchase price. Once you finish uploading everything, your book is then available for purchase in just a few days. Ever considered publishing something you have written? Give it a try!



How can one describe our **State President Roxanne Berger**? We know about her kind and generous traits, as well as how optimistic she can be. She has many amazing talents including a natural leader and brilliant musician. Let's look more closely at the work of Roxanne, our gracious state president.

### Roxanne Berger

*by Susan Salesses & Beta Iota Chapter which was Roxanne's original chapter for 34 years.*

Responsive to the needs of others.

Organized and prepared to tackle any task.

X-ray-like focus to get to the root of a problem that needs solving.

Appreciates the good works and suggestions of others, taking the extra step of telling people how much she appreciates them.

Networks in DKG to support the organization.

Negotiates to resolve issues and considers all opinions.

Encourages others to live up to their potential and assume leadership roles.

Balances her personal, professional, school and non-school tasks, old and new, in an amazing fashion.

Energetically accepts new challenges.

Respects her colleagues.

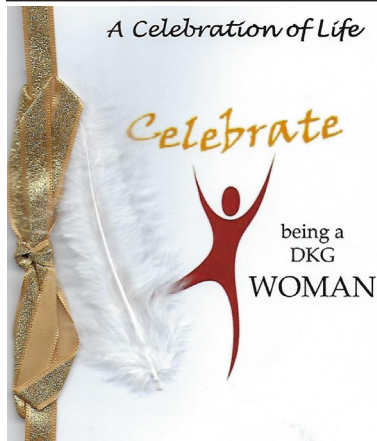
Gifts others with the beauty of her voice.

Empowers others to get the job done.

Resolute- believes deeply in the positive purposes of DKG and of elementary education. She always keeps focus on "moving ever forward."

Thank you, Roxanne, for all the gifts you shared with DKG Florida. We are blessed to have you as our leader.





**Dr. Mohinder "Mona" Jain  
Kappa Chapter  
District III  
February 28, 2023  
Bradenton, Florida**



An immigrant from India, Dr. Mohinder "Mona" Jain served as both a teacher and administrator for American, British, and Indian educational systems since 1961, and has given countless years of service to schools across the state of Florida.

She earned two bachelor's degrees from Delhi University in India. In 1961, Mona started teaching at Delhi Public School in New Delhi, India. In 1964, she received a Fulbright Award that brought her to Riverview High School in Sarasota, Florida.

While a teacher in schools throughout Sarasota and Manatee counties, Dr. Jain taught biological science, health science, and physical science at the K-12, master's, and education specialist's levels.

When it came to school events like prom or graduation, she was often the faculty sponsor who attended these activities to show her support and encouragement.

Mona said she was passionate about mentorship and about helping others move forward in their educational journeys. It's what's led her to other opportunities in her career, such as serving on the Florida Governor's Commission on Education. She was also president of the American Association of University Women and served as Director of Family Health Services for Manatee County's Head Start program. From 1990-2006, Dr. Jain was an administrator and adjunct faculty member at Bethune-Cookman University's Bradenton campus and at Nova Southeastern University.

A self-described lifelong learner, Mona holds half a dozen degrees from a variety of higher education institutions, including two bachelor's degrees, a master's degree, an educational specialist degree, a doctor of medicine and a PhD.

Of all the credentials she's earned, Dr. Jain says it's the PhD from the University of South Florida (USF) that is most meaningful for her, because of her family's passion for the university and commitment to supporting their hometown institution.

Mona earned many recognitions throughout her career. She was one of only 20 women in the nation to receive a community service award from the American Medical Women's Association. She was also honored with a life membership in Delta Kappa Gam-

ma and Phi Delta Kappa. From USF, she's received the 1998 USF Sarasota-Manatee Alumni Professional Achievement Award and the 2001 USF National Distinguished Alumnus Award.

In 2019, the School District of Manatee County honored Mona by naming a new middle school after her, Dr. Mona Jain Middle School. Cynthia Saunders, superintendent of the School District of Manatee County, congratulated Dr. Jain at the dedication ceremony.

In 2020, Mona was recognized as the recipient of the USF College of Education Dean's Lifetime Achievement Award. This honor is reserved for those who have demonstrated long-term contributions, achievement, and service within the field of education. A proud USF Bull, Dr. Jain said, "receiving this award is personally significant because of her strong connection to the university."

**Jeanette Christine Hart  
Laney  
Alpha Beta  
District II  
November 5, 2022  
Jacksonville, Florida**

**Jeanette Laney** of Jacksonville, Florida, passed away on November 5, 2022, at the age of 89. She was a media specialist in Duval County and a school volunteer following retirement,

In May of 1998, Jeannette was inducted into **Alpha Beta Chapter**. She served as past chapter secretary, chaplain, and committee member.

**Judith A. Shostrom  
Kappa Chapter  
District III**

**March 31, 2023  
Bradenton, Florida**

Judy Shostrom, 79, of Bradenton, Florida, passed away on March 31, 2023, at her home. Judy was born February 4, 1944, in Effingham, Illinois to Ernie and Gert Pulsford. She married Bob Shostrom and together they had their son, Alex, in 1970.

She graduated from Effingham High School in 1962 and received her teaching degree from Eastern Illinois University. She moved to Bradenton, Florida shortly after to start her teaching career of over 35 years at Samoset Elementary.

**Wilma M. Smith  
Mu Chapter  
District III  
March 25, 2023  
The Villages, Florida**



Wilma M. Smith, age 87, Titusville, Florida, formerly of Inverness, passed away on March 25, 2023, in the Edward M. Poe Hospice Care Center in Titusville.

Wilma was born at home in the suburbs of Detroit, Michigan, on January 13, 1936, and moved to Inverness with her late husband,

George Smith from Troy, Michigan. She was a retired educator, having taught second and third graders for over 30 years.

In 1976, Wilma was inducted into the Lambda Chapter of DKG in the state of Michigan. She served 2 consecutive bienniums as chapter president starting in 1982. Wilma was Secretary of the Michigan State Convention and Lambda Chapter's Women of Distinction.

Wilma was active in the Hernando Church of The Nazarene and enjoyed sewing, making cards, and playing Bunko. In later years she was a resident at Sumter Place Senior living where she enjoyed bingo, reading, participating in special events, and taking in the holiday lights.

A Celebration of Life was held on April 4, 2023, at the Charles E. Davis Funeral Home with The Rev. Andy Heer, pastor of the Hernando Church of The Nazarene officiating. Burial followed in the Fountains Memorial Park, Homosassa, Florida.

**Mary Alyce Westendick  
Kappa Chapter  
District III  
March 7, 2023  
Tallahassee, Florida**



Mary Alyce Westendick was born on May 21, 1929, at the lying-in-hospital that was the former home of U.S. President William McKinley in Canton, Ohio. During that same year, Mary arrived in Tallahassee, Florida, with her family.

Growing up in the Sunnyland neighborhood of Tallahassee near Lake Ella, she had many friends through the years, and her family's yard was a favored playground for all ages of neighborhood children.

Mary and her family were long-time parishioners of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, at that time the only Catholic Church in Tallahassee's five-county area. She was baptized there and received all her sacraments, including her last rites.

In 1948, she attended Sealey Elementary School and graduated from Leon High School. She then attended Florida State University and graduated in 1952 with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. Mary taught kindergarten at Samoset Elementary School in Bradenton, Florida, and retired after 37 years in 1990. Over the years, she enjoyed visits from her former students dating back to her first classes in the early 1950s.

Mary became a DKG member on April 1, 1964. She was a member of Kappa Chapter for almost 59 years, including serving as chapter president from 1970-1972.

After she retired, she moved to Tallahassee in 2013 to be with her family. She died March 7, 2023, at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital.

The Westendick family received friends on March 15, 2023, in the Capital Room of Culley's Meadow Wood Funeral Home. Funeral services were held on March 16, 2023, at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Tallahassee, Florida .

### 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



**DKG International Conferences**  
July 11-16, 2023  
Detroit, Michigan - The Westin Book Cadillac

July 18-22, 2023  
Phoenix, Arizona - Sheraton Wild Horse Pass

July 26-29, 2023  
Tampere, Finland - Tampere Hall

**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 6, 2024  
Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, Palm Bay, FL

District V: March 16, 2024  
First Baptist Church of Ft. Lauderdale, FL

District VI: February 17, 2024  
Carlyle Inn, Sarasota, FL

**DKG International Convention**  
July 9-13, 2024  
National Harbor, Maryland - Gaylord National, 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](https://twitter.com/DKGMuState) FL

**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)

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