

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Florida Rays



Planting, Watering and Growing Our Society

Vol. 62 No. 1

Mu State Organization of Key Women Educators

Fall 2016

The Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar Lake Mary - 2016



Row 4: Coleen Stoffa, Michelle Josey, Katrina Roddenberry, Carol Ann Casey, Mary Jo Holleran, Tiffany Boggs, Victoria McFarland, Kim Baggs, Tina March, Carol Killingsworth, and Colleen Guerette

Row 3: Kathryn Corona, Becky Pugh, Cathy Tweeddale, Alisha Wendorph, Katie Raiford, Darlene Laird, and Pat Dill

Row 2: Katy Hewitt, Josie Rodriguez, Linda Wunderly, Betty Bunnell, Martha "Sam" Wright, Jessica Short, Chelsea Mosko, Marilyn Letvin, Ruth Burrell, Kathy Raiford, Pam Westmoreland, Diane Shrier, and Tracey Williams

Row 1: Sam King, Pat Litterick, Missy Jones, Terry Stanilonis, Rose Ann Verheyen, Gerry Hacker, Carleen Spano, Ann S. Lumsden, Carrie Frye, Angie Williams, Judith Mix, Sandy Byars, Beverly Helms, and Stephanie Eley

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2015 - 2017
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Florida Rays
Mu State Organization
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society
International
Volume 62, Number 1
Fall 2016
Florida Rays: (USPS 091-890)
(ISSN: 0896-3711)

Published 4 times each year by Mu State Organization of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International at 531 Hadley Drive, Palm Harbor, FL 34683.

Periodical postage paid at Tallahassee, Florida and additional post offices.

POSTMASTER/MEMBERS: Send address changes to The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, P.O. Box 1589, Austin, Texas 78767-1589.

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**Mu State Members
Receive Special Recognitions**

Gerry Hacker, President

Florida (Mu) State President

pianosteel@hotmail.com



Below you will find some special recognitions that some of our members have received in 2016. If you have received an award or recognition from your chapter, Mu State, Southeast Region or International that you would like posted in the **FLORIDA RAYS**, please send it to me. I will add it to a special spot I am making each quarter in the RAYS. We would love to hear from you and share you special event with our Mu State sisters.

Golden Gift Leadership Seminar

Austin, Texas

Dr. Stephany Eley, Beta Sigma

Dr. Nancy Henning, Iota

Cornetet Individual Professional Development Award

Dr. Peg Dunn-Snow, Beta Alpha

Educational Foundation Project Award

Dr. Stephanie Carey, Beta Theta

Mu State Scholarship Award

\$2,500 each

April Fleetwood, Gamma Iota

Laura King, Delta Kappa

**2016 Fulbright Hays Seminar Abroad Scholar Grant
Summer in Peru**

Celia Blandon, Alpha Omega

Gove Elementary School

Palm Beach County Schools

International Gallery of Fine Arts & Humanities



**selected the artwork of
Florida Artist**
Kathy R. Yarborough
Delta Theta



"Planting, Watering and Growing our Chapters"

*Greetings from Gerry Hacker
Florida (Mu) State President*

"Don't be afraid to be amazing."
by Andy Irwin

Dear Mu State Sisters:



Thank you for your work and dedication to make our Fall Workshop a success! It was wonderful! As we continue to develop our theme of "Planting, Watering and Growing our Chapters," we are expanding areas of expertise and sharing knowledge and skills with each other. All is important. It was so exciting to watch the registration numbers for the 2016 Fall Workshop/Executive Board Meeting increase. We ended up with 285 registrations because of your belief in and dedication to Mu State and DKG. You value the purposes and each other. Thank you! As I watched you all walking through the hallways and attending the workshops, it was so gratifying to see your friendship, dedication, and talents shared with each other. We had 65 First Timers! Congratulations and a strong welcome! This was fantastic!

Some of the things we are accomplishing are making a difference for us personally and for Mu State. These include:

1. Increasing awareness of the purposes of Delta Kappa Gamma,
2. Involving members by using and expanding their areas of expertise, knowledge and skills,
3. Searching for and adding valued and outstanding candidates,
4. Focusing ways to strengthen our Society,
5. Valuing participation at State, Regional, and International levels,
6. Developing new ideas that will enable us to achieve new goals and expand our focus in new ways that will strengthen our society and lead us forward into a successful future,
7. Believing in ourselves, caring for others, and acknowledging and using our abilities. Let others know your talents and areas of expertise.

I'd like to share the following "sayings" that I found recently reminding me of you:

"You are the one who can stretch your own horizon."

"Acknowledging a mistake just means that you are wiser today than you were yesterday."

"Light tomorrow with today."

"Follow what you love and it will take you where you want to go"

"Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love. A gift to that person is a beautiful thing."

"There is no greater joy nor greater reward than to make a fundamental difference in someone's life."

YOU ALL ARE THE BEST! Looking forward to seeing you in April at the Mu State Convention!

Love and blessings,

**Gerry B. Hacker, President
Florida (Mu) State Organization
pianosteel@hotmail.com**



Planting, Watering and Growing our Society

From the Desk of



Judith Mix
Executive Secretary
mixjutom@embarqmail.com

Have you thanked someone recently for something they did? When one of your younger members offered to pick up a member unable to drive to the meeting, did you notice and thank her for being so considerate? When one of your younger members became chair of a committee and presented a program, did you thank her for doing it? When one of your younger members became an officer, did you thank her for taking a leadership role?

Have you thanked an older member when she made special name tags for guests at a meeting? Have you thanked your older member when she made her special dessert for a meeting? Did you take the time to thank your retiring officers for the time and effort that they had given during their biennium?

On the first day our new teachers started working, my chapter bought, prepared, and served lunch to eighty new teachers and also presented each of them with a ream of paper. It was a fun and rewarding time of work, but what made it extra special for me was to have one of my former first grade students in this group of new teachers. The student was happy to see me and after talking said, "I'll tell my mom I saw you!" This was a thank you from a student who appreciated and remem-

bered the things that teachers do for their students as they encourage and mold them to become happy and productive adults.

No matter where you are in your life, have you stopped, noticed or remembered when someone touched you by their actions, and said, "Thank you!" If there is something I can do to help you, just let me know.

Mu State Members Receive Awards from DKG Education Foundation



Ann Blosfield
DKG Education Foundation
blosda@msn.com

Congratulations go out to two Mu State members who have recently received awards funded by the International Educational Foundation.



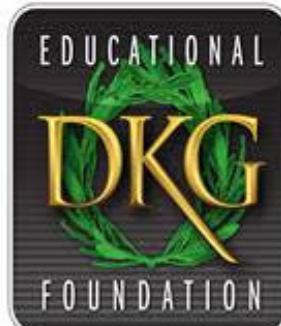
Dr. Stephanie Carey, Beta Theta Chapter, a bioengineering professor at USF, has received a Project Award for her project, entitled Inspiring Middle School Students with Photovoltaic Power Gen-

eration. She received \$4,500 to help with project implementation. A total of \$77,815.47 in Project Awards has been awarded by the International Educational Foundation in 2016. The next deadline for submission of Project Award applications is January 3, 2017. **Dr. Margaret (Peg) Dunn Snow, Beta Alpha Chapter**, has received notification of a Profes-



sional Development Award in the amount of \$1,200. She attended an Accelerated Traumatology Course in Morgantown, West Virginia in September.

A total of \$25,800.32 has been provided by the Foundation for Cornetet Professional Development Awards so far this year. The next application deadlines for Cornetet Professional Development Awards to receive funding to attend professional meetings are September 1, 2016 and February 1, 2017. Applications are available on-line at www.dkgf.org. Your giving funds projects and professional development for educators throughout the world. Contributions can be given by individuals or chapters in honor of, or in memory of someone, and are tax deductible.



Personnel Committee



**Merle Jones,
Immediate Past Mu State President**
msjjones95@hotmail.com

The Personnel Committee is composed of the two (2) immediate past Mu State (Florida) presidents who are willing and able to serve and the current Mu State president. The most immediate past president serves as chair. The 2015-2017 committee is **Merle Jones, Chair; Carrie Frye, Mu State President 2011-2013; and Gerry Hacker, Mu State President 2015-2017.**

The committee reviews the job descriptions of paid employees, conducts a performance review of each paid Mu State employee [treasurer, executive secretary, editor of the state newsletter, and webmaster], and makes recommendations to the executive board regarding job performance, hiring, and retention of said employees. (Article VIII. Section C.9).

The 2013-2015 committee conducted a search for the vacated position of webmaster, screened, and interviewed candidates. Recommendations were made to the executive board at the 2015 Mu State (Florida) Convention for approval of **Melisa (Missy) Jones** to fill the position effective July 01, 2015. The motion to employ Missy as Mu State Webmaster was passed.

Performance reviews were conducted for each of the other paid employees. Motions for continued employment were presented to the executive board for approval at the 2015 Mu State (Florida) Convention. All motions were passed by the executive board.

The updated Personnel Manual is posted on the Mu State website located at the following:

<http://dkgmustateflorida.weebly.com/>



TREA\$URER'S NOTE\$

**Beverly Stagg
Mu State Treasurer
bastagg@hotmail.com**



The following information may be useful to all chapter presidents and treasurers. It includes chapter scholarships and grants-in-aid given by chapters during the 2015-2016 Fiscal year. The second part of the article has survey information concerning chapter dues amounts collected by treasurers.

During 2015-2016, chapter treasurers reported (on their Form 15, Annual Report of Chapter Treasurers) that the following scholarships and grants-in-aid were awarded:

**83 Grants-in-Aid for a total of \$28,601
26 Scholarships for a total of \$2,425
2 Mu State scholarships were
awarded for a total of \$5,000**

I am often asked what amount is collected for chapter dues. Chapter dues amounts are not reported to me, so last year I conducted an informal survey by email with 39 chapters responding, and the results are listed below. I divided the chapters into the following categories listing both active and reserve amounts.

- A. Fewer than 15 members
- B. 16 to 25 members
- C. 26 to 40 members
- D. 40 to 55 members
- E. More than 55 members

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| A. Active Range: \$5-\$12 with Average: \$8 | Reserve Range: \$0-\$8 |
| with sample too small to average | |
| B. Active Range: \$2-\$27 | Average: \$15 |
| Reserve Range: \$3-\$18 | Average: \$9 |
| C. Active Range: \$10-\$37 | Average: \$20 |
| Reserve Range: \$0-\$18 | Average: \$7 |
| D. Active Range: \$12-\$28 | Average: \$19 |
| Reserve Range: \$3-\$13 | Average: \$7.50 |
| E. Active Range: \$15-\$31 | Average: \$21 |
| Reserve Range:\$12-\$15 | Average: \$13.50 |

Hopefully, this information will be helpful in future planning.

FL DKG Foundation Holds Annual Meeting and Announces Awards

Florida DKG members heard reports from the Florida DKG Educational Foundation at its first annual membership meeting held during the Mu State (Florida) Fall Executive Board/Workshop on September 23, 2016. All DKG members in Florida are members of the FL DKG Educational Foundation. **Dr. Elsie Gross** and the members of the board of directors reported the adoption of Bylaws, plans for fundraising, a recommendation of two members to continue service on the board, the public relations campaign, and the plan to present two awards for up to \$1,500 each for professional development.



Ann Tikka and **Merle Jones** were elected to continue service on the board of directors. Ann was originally appointed to a one-year term which terminated in September 2016. As per the Foundation Bylaws, she was eligible to be nominated for a full four-year term. Merle was serving as a director by virtue of her position as immediate past state organization president which ends June 2017. Because the next annual meeting of the Foundation is not until September 2017, she was recommended to be elected to a new four year term beginning July 1, 2017. For the period between September 2016 and June 30, 2017, Jones will serve by virtue of her role as the immediate past state organization president and also as a director newly elected to a four-year term.



In July of 2017, the current state organization president, **Gerry Hacker**, will assume the role of immediate past state organization president on the board of directors and the incoming Mu State president will join the board by virtue of her position. Others serving as directors are **Dr. Elsie Gross**, **Dr. Beverly Helms**, **Carrie Frye**, **Connie Kostyra**, **Dr. Evelyn Kelly**, and **Nancy Bentz**.

One of the two FL DKG Educational Foundation Awards will be presented at the Mu State Convention on April 29, 2017. The awards can be used to pay for attendance at professional seminars, workshops, conferences, lecture series, on-line courses, and other non-degree (and non-DKG) program opportunities. Awards may be used to pay for registration fees, materials, travel, and lodging related to the activity. An award cannot be used to reimburse expenses already incurred.



Detailed information about the awards, including the application and rubric, is available on the Florida DKG Foundation website at www.fldkgf.org. The deadline for submitting an application is February 1, 2017. Members who need additional information should contact **Dr. Elsie Gross** at elsiedgross@gmail.com.

Mu State Nominations Committee Wants You!



Lou Burns
Nominations Chair
lwbntn1968@gmail.com

The Nominations Committee is accepting applicants for Mu State officer positions for the next biennium.

Please indicate the office you are seeking.

Applications for submitting your candidacy for an office on the 2017-2019 biennium will be on our website.

Applications must be post-marked no later than 11:59 PM, December 1, 2016.

The completed application package with references must be included in your mailing.

Send your completed application to the Nominations Chair:

Ms. Lou Burns
839 Molly Circle
Sarasota, FL 34232

or

lwbntn1968@gmail.com

If you have applied in the past, don't hesitate to apply again!

This is your chance to make a difference in Mu State!



The Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar

Dr. Carleen Spano, Chair
cspano@comcast.net

On the afternoon of June 26, thirty (30) key women educators from across Mu State convened at the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary to participate in the 2016 Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar. They were joined by the committee, as well as Mu State and DKG international leaders, as they addressed a challenging but rewarding agenda for the ensuing two and a half days. Each day had an overriding theme that prompted reflection of professional development, personal growth, and implications for The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Monday's theme was "Where do I fit in this changing world?" Tuesday focused on the nuts and bolts of "How to..." The final, culminating experience on Wednesday morning was more personally dedicated to "Looking back, moving forward."

Opportunities were provided for individual reflection and growth, while cultivating a community spirit of acquaintance and fellowship with members from throughout the state. This began with roommate assignments where participants were paired with a member from another part of Florida. While there may have been a few fleeting moments of apprehension as to these assignments, the closing tribute to roommates reflected the bonding that will last far beyond the time spent in Lake Mary. Meal events were included in the Seminar (except for one night on the town) and provided yet another opportunity for fellowship and seating with new companions. One very large goal of the Seminar is to foster relationships beyond one's own chapter, and this group very much relished this aspect of the Seminar.

As the group addressed the agenda, there were opportunities for group discussion, group decision making, and group presentations. Tuesday was primarily devoted to group sessions where participants selected a topic of their choice from an array that included assertiveness, delegation, facilitating teams, planning and conducting effective meetings, and time management. Each group was responsible for sharing their findings with the total group, and the result was a rich display of creative presentation and participation techniques and styles.

Tuesday evening's dinner was a very special event featuring an informal but heartfelt talk by **Immediate Past International President Dr. Beverly Helms**. Wednesday morning was reserved for individual reflection, goal setting and, of course, the culminating celebration of accomplishment and completion. Graduation exercises were held, and **Mu State President Gerry Hacker** was on hand to congratulate participants as they received their certificates and leadership pins.

Participants provided feedback that is always carefully considered by the committee in the spirit of continuous improvement. Overall, the participants had a very positive experience and the most frequent complaint was that there was too much food! The committee will address that and other issues, so that the 2018 Seminar is an even more enriching experience.

The 2018 Seminar will be held at the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary from Sunday afternoon, June 24, to Wednesday, June 27, 2018. Applications are available on the Mu State website, and a short form is acceptable. At the Mu State Fall Workshop/Board Meeting, participation forms were provided at a breakout session entitled Leadership Essentials.

Whether you are new in your career, seeking professional advancement, looking for leadership opportunities in DKG, or searching the tools to execute your DKG responsibilities, there is something for you in the Leadership Seminar. And, yes, if you are retired, there is also a wealth of opportunity to address this new phase in your life. Consider taking a few days for yourself to refresh your spirit and to share with like-minded members from across Florida in professional development, personal growth, and service to DKG. Mark these dates on your calendar: June 24 – 27, 2018!

Money Matters

Myra Ponder, Mu State Scholarship Chairman
mpond@mchsi.com

District Committee Members: Roxanne Berger (II), Margaret Goodwin (III), Diane Schuerer (IV), Marla Cannon (V), and Lou Burns (VI)



In the spring issue of the Florida Rays, the Mu State Finance Committee's responsibilities were listed, and, of course, the most important responsibility was to manage all of Mu State's funds to be productive and beneficial to members. In that light, a reorientation of the Martha Robertson Harris Scholarship Fund is in order.

After Martha Harris's death in 1981, her husband graciously donated \$10,000 for a scholarship in her name. It was designated as the Martha Robertson Harris Scholarship, and after enough interest was accumulated, the interest only was to be awarded in the form of a scholarship to a Mu State member who was working on an advanced degree in the area of southern history.

From 1981 till 1999, the interest accumulated and the first and only Martha Robertson Harris Scholarship was awarded to Lee Powell. In a slight stretch of the imagination, interest from this same fund has also been used to finance printing of Mu State's 10-year volumes of its history – which is southern history, right?

Meanwhile, interest rates which have gone down significantly over the past 7 or more years have made the finance committee take another look at how scholarships might be funded. Mu State scholarships are funded 3 ways: interest income from \$25,000 capital scholarship CDs, \$0.80 per member per year from dues revenue, and donations. Let's look at each source separately.

INTEREST FROM CAPITAL SCHOLARSHIP CDs

Until 7 or 8 years ago, CDs could generate 4% and higher amounts of interest. Since then and still today, the average yield on CDs is around 1%. To continue earning at least \$1,000 interest per year (or closer to it), more capital needs to be invested, at least \$25,000 from the Martha Robertson Harris Fund as well as the Culpepper Fund. At 1%, another \$500 in interest will be earned towards scholarships. Eventually, rates may go a little higher.

INCOME FROM MEMBERSHIP DUES

Other than a few exceptions, \$0.80 from each member's dues goes directly into the Mu State Scholarship fund for dispersing. In 1994 when there were over 4,000 members in Mu State, this generated \$3,200 which was enough to award one \$2,500 scholarship and \$700 towards the second. Now that membership has dwindled to less than 2,230, scholarship money from dues has dropped below \$1,800, \$700 short of one \$2,500 scholarship. This problem can be fixed only if membership increases.

INCOME FROM DONATIONS

Personal donations are usually in honor or memory of a DKG sister, friend or loved one. Sometimes district meetings donate their basket proceeds to the Mu State Scholarship Fund. In any event, these are voluntary donations and some years they are nonexistent.

The Finance Committee welcomes any suggestions for finding more sources for scholarships, but for now will redirect the interest from the two funds mentioned above. Let's not forget one of the DKG purposes – to promote professional and personal growth of women educators by endowing scholarships to pursue graduate study.



Link Your Chapter Website to DKG.org

Florida (Mu) State Organization Communications and Publicity Committee
mustatecommunications@gmail.com

Chapter websites are no longer required to be “certified” before they are linked to DKG International. (DKG.org). Beginning in July of 2016, state organizations and chapter websites will be required to provide an assurance that their website is in compliance with international standards, and that it is free of copyright infringement. State/chapter websites will be linked with International once the website compliance assurance has been submitted.

Why link your chapter website with International?

Linking your chapter website with DKG international allows chapters to market their services, programs and projects to potential members. Website linking also serves as a useful tool for relocating DKG members who are moving to a new community and looking to transfer their membership.

How Do We Link Our Chapter Website?

In order for a website to be linked, a chapter representative/webmaster will:

1. Review the “Checklist for Standards for Society Website Linkage”. This information can be found under “Forms” on DKG.org.
2. Complete a Form 72, “Society Website Compliance Assurance.”
3. Submit Form 72 to headquarters and to the chair of the 2016-2018 International Communications & Publicity (C&P) Committee.

Will the Website be Reviewed?

Members of the International C&P Committee will do a courtesy review of all first-time websites. The International C&P Committee members will also provide feedback to any webmaster of a renewing (currently linked) site if assistance is requested.

Deadlines:

Websites currently linked to International: November 1, 2016.
First time websites can apply any time during the biennium.



Need Help?

If you need more information or assistance, please contact
the Florida (Mu) State Communications Committee at mustatecommunications@gmail.com



Calling All Singers!
Vanessa Pinto, Mu State Music Director
vjpinto09@gmail.com

The Mu State Chorus needs you! We will be rehearsing and performing at the Mu State Convention held next April 28 - 30, 2017, at the Marriott Lake Mary Hotel. A brief overview is as follows:

Rehearsals: Friday night, Saturday afternoon & Sunday morning.

Performances: 4 selections for Saturday Night's Banquet

2 selections for Sunday morning's Memorial Service

If you would like to join your Mu State sisters in song, please contact me by phone at (850) 894-0995, email provided above, or text at (850) 264-4109. I hope you are able to join me in some merry music making! I look forward to singing with you!

Members/Chapters Sharing Their Vision



Beta Chi Chapter is proud to share that our fellow member, Vicki Nikoncyk, was inducted into the Orlando Regional USBC (United States Bowling Association) Hall of Fame for Meritorious Service on July 23, 2016. She served as president of the Ladies Invitational League for 10 years. In 1995 she was appointed as a director of the Orlando WIBC (Women's International Bowling Association). She served as director, 2nd Vice President, and 1st Vice President until the women's association merged with the men's organization in 2014. She is currently a director in this merged association.



Beta Chi Chapter met for a lovely Sunday afternoon tea to celebrate the accomplishments of the year, initiate 5 members with 2 more to be initiated at a later date, and install new officers. **Missy Jones** will serve a second biennium as president. This year the chapter has focused on

support of Early Career Educators through mentoring, volunteering in classrooms, and presenting new books for the first-year teachers' classrooms. Over 400 books have been distributed with more to give.

Beta Omega honored **Fern Cleary** on September 17, 2016, for her 40-year service to DKG. **Jackie Thornton**

presented her with a 40-Year pin. Initiated in 1976, Fern served as chapter president from 1980-1984. Fern served Mu State as second vice-president, a member of many committees, and chair of by-laws, world fellowship, membership, and necrology. She was a presenter at four of the Mu State Leadership Growth Seminars. At numerous Southeast Regional Conferences and International Conventions, Fern planned and executed Florida's breakfasts and luncheons. She was inducted into the Mu State Hall of Fame and in 2004 received Mu State's Sara B. Ferguson Achievement Award. During a 29-year career of teaching science, Fern was honored several times as Teacher of the Year and was also named the 1984 "Outstanding Florida Science Educator" by the Florida Association of Science Teachers.

On April 14, the **Beta Phi Chapter** of Delta Kappa Gamma provided a pre-finals supper for the resi-



dents of the Lastinger Scholarship House on FSU's campus. Good

food and good conversation were enjoyed by all!

Gamma Alpha Chapter held its April meeting at the Multiple Intelligences Lab in Cracker Trail Elementary School in Sebring. The lab focuses on learning through multiple forms of art. Members learned about the lessons, strategies, and projects that are used to bridge and extend the curriculum through the visual arts. Members then participated in using an initial from their name to create art. **Amanda Price** proudly displays her finished product. Thank you, **Kristine Sebring**, for hosting the meeting.



Gamma Nu Chapter had a busy April with orientation and initiation of two new members,



Rozanne Gorley and **Maria Metge**, announcements of the new and continuing Grants-in-Aid, installation of officers, and the celebration of 40 chapter years of DKG. Thank you, **Sam King** and



officers, for two years of exceptional leadership, dedication, and perseverance! Congratulations, **Barb Davis**, in becoming chapter president for the next biennium!

Reflections about DKG's 2016 National Legislative Seminar

Kim R. Baggs, Alpha Sigma President, 2014-2018



Delta Kappa Gamma 2016 U.S. FORUM National Legislative Seminar for Key Women Educators Women Poised for Legislative Action

This year I was privileged to be able to attend this outstanding legislative seminar. Women from all over the US attended, including DKG sisters who want to learn how to make their voices heard as they learn about issues that affect women, children, and education. It was inspiring to hear testimonies of women from all walks of life, educational backgrounds, political experiences and passions.

The key issues for this seminar focused on Bullying Prevention, ESSA and High Stakes Testing, Pay Equity, Mental Health, Gun Violence, Human Trafficking, and Women in History. For the first few days we prepared our minds by listening to speakers give information and current updates concerning the issues. Then we all marched to the "Hill" to speak to representatives from our own states and especially those representing our county. Some met us with arms open wide, some tried to avoid issues and distract us, and some had us meet with their legislative assistants. Each one of us shared our hearts for women, children, and education. They laughed with us and cried with us, especially about the problem of human trafficking that is increasing in our area. We were well prepared for this endeavor and were given valuable resources to continue.

It is my goal for our chapter to get more involved with the issues that affect us as women and educators and those that affect the children in our lives. If you've never attended the Forum, I strongly encourage you to make plans now to attend the next seminar in 2018.

One person can make a difference and every person should try....



Another Example of the Beautiful Hearts of DKG Women

Carrie Frye, Mu State Past President
c frye@att.net

A door prize of our beautiful American flag, which had flown over the Capitol, was presented at the close of the 2016 National Legislative Seminar in Washington, DC. The recipient was a first-time attendee, **Lucy Riffle**, from Kentucky. Lucy was the only participant from her state, so Florida delegates "adopted" her.

As the drawing began, a Florida member stated how much she would like to win the flag as her school desperately needed one. Lucy overheard this comment and later contacted me to make arrangements to gift the flag to our **Kim Baggs, Alpha Sigma Chapter President**. Kim was unable to attend the convention in Nashville to receive the flag from Lucy.

On July 28, I drove to Melrose, FL, to present the flag to Kim. Terry Stanilonis from Beta Mu Chapter was present as was Lucy via Facetime. Lucy, what a magnanimous heart you have! On behalf of Florida members, we appreciate you and consider you a member of our DKG Florida family.





A Review of 2016 International Convention

Carrie Frye, 2011-13 State President
c frye@att.net

The Nashville Gaylord Opryland Hotel was the place to be during the first week of July. The Tennessee members were warm and welcoming. A representative from each of the 17 DKG member countries proudly presented her country's flag at the opening ceremony on Tuesday night, July 05. The keynote speaker, Kai Kight, a classical violinist, regaled us with his innovative violin compositions and encouraged us to think outside the box, step away from conformity, and create our own destiny with our individual uniqueness. Upon close of this session, our Tennessee hostesses presented a true country/western band that provided hand-clapping, foot-stomping, get-on-your-feet-and-dance music.

On day two of the convention, the 2nd General Session keynote speaker, Mike Figliuolo, challenged the participants to become better leaders by looking into ourselves as to our leadership philosophy and qualities, by keeping in touch with reality, and by finding ways to work with each member of the team in a way that meets that individual's needs. Afterward, participants dispersed to participate in the four consecutive breakout session times, the Cyber Center and shopping in the Marketplace.

At the 3rd General Session, we witnessed how strongly members feel about the importance of chapter membership when we voted against the adoption of the proposed amendment to permit a member to drop chapter membership and request state organization membership. At the US Forum Session, a chair and the four regional representatives were elected for 2016 – 2018. Carrie Frye presented her Bullying/Cyber Bullying resolution which was adopted. During the "Be a Change" luncheon, our own Stephany Eley was recognized for completing her doctoral program. Congratulations, Dr. Eley! A lovely afternoon reception was held for President Gerry Hacker, her guests and the 50-plus Florida attendees. Thank you to all who assisted!!! Then those who registered for the Wild Horse Saloon event dressed in their western-wear and were off to line-dance the night away.

On the fourth day, Florida members were anxious to attend the SE Regional Breakfast where we learned that our "FL Star of the Southeast" is the very deserving **Connie Besco**. Thank you for all you have done over the years and continue to do, Connie. You epitomize the meaning of a true DKG member...going above and beyond in your work for the Society and fulfilling every assignment and request flawlessly. **Merle Jones** hit the stage with her fellow SE Region 2013 – 2015 state presidents in a down-home skit and a country rendition of our DKG song. (She will never be the same.) At the 4th General Session, the delightful Judith Viorst used a mix of humor and reality checks in sharing her message of "Life Lessons from under Eight till over Eighty: What we've learned or need to learn to help us develop and grow over the decades." There is hope for all of us as proven by this entertaining 85-year old speaker, Judith Viorst!

Saturday began with a beautiful and touching "Celebration of Life" tribute to our deceased members. A moving performance, Flying with Angels, was danced by a group of Hawaiian members. The 5th General Session

keynote speaker, Natalye Paquin from the Girl Scouts USA Office, spoke to the importance of building leadership skills early. She shared evidence of the positive impact that participation in scouting has on the development of leaders. The day ended with the banquet at which Carolyn Pittman, our newly elected International President, accepted the gavel from outgoing Lyn Schmidt. Carolyn has chosen the DKG mission statement, "Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide," as her theme.

We are proud of our Florida members who were actively involved and visible throughout the convention serving as breakout session presenters, hot topic presenters, elections committee member, floor page, recorder of minutes, etc., and contributed to the success of the convention. As we move forward to preparing for the 2017 Southeast Regional Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC, and 2018 International Convention in Austin, TX, begin to make plans to attend and to share your talents.

Membership Statistics & Voting Strength

**Mu State (Florida) has
85 chapters,
2,546 total members,
60 honorary members,
and
497 votes.**

FL Participation in 2016 International Convention

At the 2016 International Convention held in Nashville, Tennessee, Mu State was proud of its members who represented Florida by their active participation.



Stephany Eley from **Beta Sigma Chapter** was given dissertation recognition at a general meeting.

During the Second General Meeting on Wednesday, July 6, **Dr. Peg Dunn-Snow** from **Beta Alpha Chapter** was appointed to a 5-member committee to approve the minutes of the 2016 International Convention. During the First Breakout Session, Peg presented **Becoming Boundless: Opening the Door to Your Potential** along with Jenny Harrison from Texas. Since everyone has the power to unlock and open doors to their hidden potential, they discussed three key elements for living life renewed. During the Second Breakout Session, **Past State President Carrie Frye** from **Beta Chi Chapter** joined Kathy Davis of Oklahoma and Judy Fox Jackson from Tennessee presented **Using Your Voice: Women in Action** which promoted a call to action of women in politics. Attendees learned more about the U.S. Forum, National Legislative Seminar, and a follow-up on key issues of 2016. Involvement of women in the political arena is most important to our future, so take action now!

As the **2014-2016 United States Forum Southeast Regional Representative, Carrie Frye** provided an issues summary on the survey results from her region at the Thursday, July 7, meeting of the U.S. Forum.

On Friday, July 8, two members from Florida led round table discussions on Hot Topics. On the topic of Global Awareness, **Jane Claud** from **Xi Chapter** led a discussion on **Volunteering in a Small Library on the Amazon River in Peru**. On the topic of Empowering Women, **Peggy DuBois** from **Beta Nu Chapter** led a discussion on **Pet First Aid**.

On Saturday, July 9, **Mu State First Vice-President Carol Ann Casey** from **Pi Chapter** helped establish the tone for "A Celebration of Life" by playing the flute backstage as the Prelude/Procesional. From Florida, sixty-seven members passed away during the last biennium. At the Fifth General Meeting, **Dr. Helen Popovich** who chairs the International Committee on Non-dues Revenue gave her report. During the presentation of the 2015-2016 state organization presidents, the Southeast Regional Director Becky Sadawski of Tennessee introduced **the Florida State President Gerry B. Hacker** from **Beta Iota Chapter**. Later that evening, then **Immediate Past International President Dr. Beverly H. Helms** did the introductions

at the Passages Banquet and presented **Outgoing International President Dr. Lyn Babb Schmid** with a gavel pin to dangle from her international president pin.

In the Biennium Reports of the Administrative Board, **Dr. Beverly H. Helms** from **Delta Theta Chapter** detailed her active involvement as Immediate Past President on page 60. **As Chair of the Non-Dues Revenue Committee, Dr. Helen Popovich**'s Biennium Report of the Society Business Committees was reported on page 81 of the convention program. In the section on the Society Mission and Purposes Committee, **Ann T. Blosfied** from **Beta Theta Chapter** was pictured on page 88 of the convention program as a member of the Scholarship Committee and **Olive Lane Horning** from **Beta Eta Chapter** was pictured with the World Fellowship Committee. As chair of The Delta Kappa Gamma Supporting Corporation, **Dr. Beverly H. Helms** was photographed along with her committee members on page 92. She was also pictured as a member of The Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation Board of Directors.



In Memoriam

Esther Elizabeth Albertson
Kappa Chapter
St. Petersburg, FL



Esther Albertson, 85, of St. Petersburg, Florida, died on August 3, 2016. She was born on July 12, 1931, in Richmond, Virginia. She graduated from King College in Bristol, Tennessee and Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Virginia. Esther was an educator for more than 30 years in Pinellas County at Canterbury, Jordan Park and Gulfport Elementary. From 2000-2003, she was Chapter President of the Kappa Chapter and active in Leadership Development. She was in the Palm Beach County Hall of Fame.

Annie Cruit Allen
Beta Lambda Chapter
Pensacola, FL



Annie Allen, a longtime resident of Pensacola, died on August 25, 2016. She was born on a farm in Southern Alabama on August 16, 1917. She graduated from Troy State Teacher's College. A dedicated teacher for 38 years, Annie retired from A. V. Clubbs Middle School which closed in 2010. In 1968, she was a Charter Member of **Beta Lambda Chapter**. Prior

to that, she was a member of **Eta Chapter**. Annie served on several committees throughout the years and attended meetings regularly until she became a reserve member. She loved flowers, gardening and sewing. Annie just celebrated her 99th birthday.

Dr. Myrna P. Crabtree
Beta Zeta Chapter
Miami, FL



Dr. Myrna Crabtree passed away on August 31, 2016, in Miami, Florida. She received her Bachelor Degree in 1944 and her Masters of Education in 1947 from New York University. In 1962, she received her Doctorate from Teachers College of Columbia. Myrna began her teaching career at a high school in Warrensburg, NY, but she moved to Miami and joined the teaching staff at Barry University in 1964.

In 1970, she accepted the position at Florida International University to develop the Counseling and Consumer Education Department. Myrna worked there for 30 years, retiring in 2000. At FIU, Myrna worked closely with the Florida Department of Education on a variety of challenging projects. She taught classes in human development and held workshops to help teachers meet the needs of the local population. Myrna helped to develop programs to improve conditions for migrant workers and prisoners. Initiated in 1976, she was a dedicated educator and chapter member.

Elvira M. Dopico
Epsilon Chapter
Miami, FL



Elvira Dopico passed away on August 3, 2016. Born in 1923 in Havana, Cuba, she came to the United States in 1961. She was a lifelong educator, musician, and community benefactor. She was educated at the University of Havana, obtained a Master's Degree from Barry University and the Juilliard School in New York City. Shortly after her arrival in Miami, Elvira became a teacher in Miami-Dade County. She quickly rose through the ranks of the school system- Assistant Principal, Principal, Area Director, and Associate Superintendent. She was the first Cuban-American Associate Superintendent in Miami-Dade County. Initiated on May 1, 1977, she served as President of Epsilon Chapter for the 1988-1990 biennium and elected District V Director in 1996.

Dr. Victoria C Gibson
Gamma Lambda Chapter
Palm Beach Gardens, FL



Dr. Victoria Gibson, 78, of Palm Beach Gardens, passed away on March 31, 2016. She was born on August 26, 1937, and initiated into DKG on April 1, 1963. She will be remembered for her contagious laughter, smile, unconditional love, support, and dedication to education as a school principal in Palm Beach County Schools. She was well known for planning

and supervising the Palm Beach County Safety Patrols on their annual trip to Washington, DC.

Debra Gordon
Gamma Lambda Chapter
Jupiter, FL



Debra Gordon, age 88, of Jupiter, FL, passed away on July 4, 2016. Initiated on November 1, 1984, she was a past chapter president of **Gamma Lambda Chapter** in District V from 2000-2002. In Society Business, she was active in Leadership Development. Debra was an educator and advocate for exceptional student education resulting in being named to the Palm Beach County Hall of Fame.

Elizabeth Hach
Pi Chapter
Miami Shores, FL



Elizabeth (Betty) M. Hach of Miami Shores passed away on July 19, 2016. Betty was born and raised in Tampa. She graduated from Plant High and attended the University of Tampa for one year. In 1946, Betty began her career as an educator where she positively impacted the lives of thousands of Dade County students. She was a classroom teacher and guidance counselor at Miami Edison Senior High for 25 years. In 1971, she was initiated into DKG. In 1979, Betty worked at North Miami Senior High as a counselor, testing chair and guidance department chair. She retired briefly in 1992 and less than a year later, she became the CAP (College Assis-

tance Program) advisor at MAST Academy. She worked another 10 years until she was 80.

Joan Heggen
Beta Phi Chapter
Tallahassee, FL



Joan Reidy Heggen, age 85, was an honorary member of **Beta Phi Chapter** in District 1 who passed away on July 10, 2016. She was born in 1930 in Wisconsin. Joan graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and did graduate work at the University of Alabama. In 1930, she moved to Tallahassee and worked in Leon County's education system. In 1972, Joan was elected as Tallahassee's City Commissioner. From 1973-1974, Mrs. Heggen was the first women to serve as mayor of Tallahassee, Florida. Ms. Heggen was appointed by Governor Bob Graham as the Florida Secretary of the Department of Veterans/Community Affairs. Until her retirement, she served as an Assistant County Administrator of Leon County.

Cornelia Auxier Perez
Beta Delta Chapter
Vero Beach, FL



Cornelia Auxier Perez, 73, of Vero Beach died of cancer on May 15, 2016. She was born in Miami and moved to Vero Beach

in 1948. Cornelia began volunteering with homeless animals around age 12, when she would ride her bicycle over to the original shelter and walk the rescued dogs. Cornelia attended Abbot Academy prep school in Andover, MA. She received her BA and MA in Speech Pathology and Audiology from the University of Colorado. She taught kindergarten for 13 years at St. Edward School. Later, she would become a volunteer education coordinator at the Humane Society visiting public school children to talk about caring for pets. Initiated in 1993, she was an honorary member of **Beta Delta Chapter** in District IV. As an adult she volunteered for the Humane Society of Vero Beach and Indian River County for 35 years.

Queen E. Webster
Gamma Eta Chapter
Crawfordville, FL



Queen Webster, 73, of Crawfordville, FL, passed away on March 12, 2016, in Hillsborough County. She was an active member in Gamma Eta Chapter in District 1. Even when she became ill and changed to reserve status, Queen attended chapter meetings and Big Bend Joint meetings as much as she was able. A distinguished educator, Queen taught in Brevard and Wakulla Counties for 38 years. She was honored as the first African American to receive the "Outstanding Teacher of the Year" distinction at Wakulla Middle School. Her success with students also earned her recognition and a trip to the White House with further accolades on television and in newspapers.

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
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Florida Rays
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**Periodical Postage
 Paid at Tallahassee, FL**

Postmaster
 Send address changes to

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

Florida Rays

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MuStateEditor@gmail.com

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

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Information Sources

DKG Mu State Florida Website
www.dkgmustateflorida.weebly.com

**DKG Mu State (FL)
 on Facebook**
[https://www.facebook.com/
 DKG-Florida-State-Organization-128818413969052/](https://www.facebook.com/DKG-Florida-State-Organization-128818413969052/)

Florida (Mu State) on Twitter
[@DKGMuState FL](https://twitter.com/DKGMuState_FL)

**Florida DKG Educational
 Foundation Website**
www.fldkgef.org

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

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

Chapter President

Form 6, Report of the
 Death of a DKG Member,
 is to be prepared by the
 chapter president imme-
 diately upon the death of
 a member. A copy is to be
 sent to each of the follow-
 ing:

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Future Meeting Dates

Mu State Convention
 April 28-30, 2017
 Orlando Marriott Lake Mary
 Lake Mary, FL

**2017 DKG Southeast
 Regional Conference**
 July 19-22, 2017
 Sheraton Myrtle Beach
 Convention Center
 Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

**Mu State Fall Workshop/
 Executive Board Meeting**
 September 22-23, 2017
 Orlando Marriott Lake Mary
 Lake Mary, FL

**2018 DKG International
 Convention**
 July 16-20, 2018
 JW Marriott
 Austin, Texas