

The Florida State Organization of Delta Kappa Gamma



# Florida Rays



Vol. 64 No. 1

*"Oh, the Places We'll Go With DKG!"*

Fall 2018

## The 2018 Jesslyn McBride Summer Leadership Seminar



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## 2017 - 2019 Mu State Officers

### President

**Carol Ann Casey**  
caseyca.dkg@gmail.com

### First Vice-President

**Dr. Nancy Henning**  
the\_hennings@yahoo.com

### Second Vice-President

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

### Recording Secretary

**Geraldine DeFelix**  
deanie575@gmail.com

### Corresponding Secretary

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

### Parliamentarian

**Dr. Helen Popovich**  
hpopovich@mac.com

### Immediate Past Mu State President

**Gerry Hacker**  
pianosteel@hotmail.com

### *Florida Rays*

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The Delta Kappa Gamma Society  
International  
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## Spotlight on Florida Members



### Florida's 2018 Star of the Southeast

During the Southeast Regional Breakfast at International, **Florida (Mu) State President Carol Ann Casey** announced **Debra Graff** as **Florida's Star of the Southeast**. Her educational niche was as a media specialist, but she became known as the "go-to lady" when you needed tech support. Deb was mentored by outstanding members in her chapter, including her sister-in-law **Ann Blossfield**, and she has held many chapter positions including treasurer and president, twice, and became a mentor herself.

Attending the Florida Jesslyn McBride Mu State Leadership Seminar inspired Deb to become active beyond the chapter level. Along with attending many state, regional and International functions, she has taken on such positions as Mu State Communications and Marketing Committee Chair and webmaster for the FL DKG Educational Foundation. She has helped numerous chapters set up and improve their websites and assists with setting up AV equipment at state meetings. At the 2013 SER Conference in Orlando, Deb was in charge of the vendor fair. In her spare time, you'll find her taking pictures at these functions and posting them on our website. All of this is done with her warm, welcoming smile. This dynamic, outgoing and creative "electronic media whiz kid" always has time to help and support her DKG sisters. "Florida's Electric Star," **Debra Graff**, has shone brightly for 25 years.

### Coronet Individual Professional Development Awards

On June 1, 2018, Karen M. Duke, Chair of the Coronet Individual Professional Development Awards Committee, and Jane D. Tanner, Chair of The Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation, notified **Florida Mu State President Carol Ann Casey** that two Florida members received a Coronet Individual Professional Development Awards. **Kaye Haddock** of **Delta Theta Chapter** received \$2,000 and plans to use her award to attend Pathways to Equity. **Sharon Thomas** of **Lambda Chapter** has received \$1,000 and plans to use her award to attend the International Literacy Association Conference 2018. Florida will congratulate them personally and recognize them at the upcoming Mu State Fall Executive Board Meeting/Workshops on September 21-22, 2018, at Orlando Marriott Lake Mary.



**Kaye Haddock** of **Delta Theta Chapter** received \$2,000 and plans to use her award to attend Pathways to Equity. **Sharon Thomas** of **Lambda Chapter** has received \$1,000 and plans to use her award to attend the International Literacy Association Conference 2018. Florida will congratulate them personally and recognize them at the upcoming Mu State Fall Executive Board Meeting/Workshops on September 21-22, 2018, at Orlando Marriott Lake Mary.



### 2018-2020 International Parliamentarian Announced

At the DKG International Convention, **Dr. Helen Popovich** was named the 2018-2020 Parliamentarian. Florida (Mu) State is so proud to see one of our members to receive this recognition of her unique skill set. During this bienium Helen has submitted an informative article in each issue of the **Florida Rays**.



## Message from DKG Florida President Carol Ann Casey

Is it really already August? What happened to June and July? So much has been happening. If you were not able to attend the International Convention in Austin in July, you missed out on some heat. It was not only hot outside, but even with freezing temperatures in the hotel, you could see the heat coming out of our general sessions as we worked our way through all those amendments. We did it though. Updates on all that was done will be forthcoming. You will be receiving information about what was changed and will affect you in the near future.

Convention was a fabulous experience. Florida was 52 strong. Those attending will have wonderful experiences and informative information to share with their chapters. One of the highlights was the Southeast Regional Breakfast and the announcing of Florida's Star of the Southeast. Our 2018 Star is **Debra Graff**, who is so very deserving. She was joined with two of our other Stars – **Marla Cannon** and **Dr. Connie Besco**. Cathy Daugherty, from SE Region, was sworn in as our new International President at the banquet on the closing night. She has chosen to continue with Carolyn Pittman's theme which is our Society's vision statement – "Leading Women Educators, Impacting Education Worldwide."

As our summer starts to wind down, it is time to start thinking of the new biennium for our districts and chapters. We have lots of new adventures to look forward to as we begin this new journey. Chapter officers, as you start making your plans for this coming year, put on your calendar to attend the Fall Executive Board Meeting and Workshops. Get a car load of your members and head to the Orlando Marriott – Lake Mary for September 21-22, 2018, for some R&R. There will be lots to do. Chapter presidents, you, or your designee, are required to be in attendance to represent your chapter at the executive board meeting. All our members will have the opportunity to meet with their new district director/s. There will also be informative and interesting breakout sessions to attend. Find out how all of those approved amendments will affect you and your chapter. Meet and greet new members and rekindle old friendships. Do some networking and some good ole fellowship.

Our theme for this Fall Executive Board Meeting and Workshop is "DKG Women to Watch." At the luncheon and/or executive board meeting we will be recognizing our new initiates since July 1, 2017, our two new chapters, **Delta Nu** and **Delta Xi**, and the Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar Class of 2018. Florida (Mu) State will also recognize members who have received special awards, scholarships and grants at both the state and International levels during this past year. Make sure you are on hand to congratulate them.

Thinking ahead, mark your calendar for April 26-28, 2019. Those are the dates for DKG Florida Convention. Our Birthday Luncheon will be a special one this year. We will be celebrating the birthdays/anniversaries of about 20 chapters that have turned or will be turning 50, 60 or 80 this biennium. Get ready for the fun.

These chapters have weathered the years. They did not sit back on their laurels after being established. They knew that the only way to survive is to nurture their members and to continually bring in new members, new life, for the chapter. For this second year of my biennium, I extend to your chapter the same challenge as last year- to bring in at least two new members by induction (initiation is now out), reinstatement, or transfer. I know you can do it. Remember to always actively engage, inspire, motivate and recognize your chapter members. The strength, attitude, and charisma of your members will then radiate out to others and inspire them to want to be a part of this wonderful and rewarding organization.

See you in September at the Orlando Marriott – Lake Mary.

***"Oh, the Places We'll Go with DKG!"***

*Carol Ann Casey, caseyca.dkg@gmail.com*



**DKG Florida Fall Executive Board Meeting/Workshops**  
**"Oh, the Places We'll Go with DKG!"**  
**September 21 - 22, 2018**  
**Orlando Marriott Lake Mary**



**Registration Form: Please print or type one name per form.**

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

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check all that apply:**

**Member**     **First Time Attending a State Meeting**     **Current Chapter President**  
 **District Director**     **State Officer or Related Personnel:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 **Past State President**     **State Committee Chairman: (Committee Name)** \_\_\_\_\_  
 **Special dietary needs: (Please Indicate)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$60.00 includes luncheon

**Make check payable to:** Delta Kappa Gamma

**Check #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Send to:** Pat Eckstein  
 6939 Sylvan Woods  
 Sanford, FL 32771

**Registration Deadline:** September 7, 2018

(packets not guaranteed after this date)

**No refunds after September 10, 2018**

**Phone:** 407-947-0824

**Email:** pateckstein@yahoo.com

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

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

**Orlando Marriott Lake Mary**

**1501 International Parkway**

**Lake Mary, Florida 32746**

**Phone: 407-995-1100 or 800-380-7724**

**Group Reservation**

**Delta Kappa Gamma or DKG**

**September 21-22, 2018**

**Room rates will also include tax.**

**On-line booking link: Book your group rate for *Delta Kappa Gamma Fall Workshop***

**Rates: Single-\$121.00 Double- \$121.00 Triple - \$121.00 Quad - \$121.00**

**Please specify the group name to receive your group rate.**

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

**Reservation cut-off date is: September 4, 2018**

**Any reservations after that date will be subject to availability.**

**Refund Policy: Cancellations, no shows, or early departures without 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-4E toward Downtown Orlando

Take CR-46A exit, EXIT 101A toward Sanford/Heathrow

Turn left onto H.E. Thomas Jr. Pky. CR-46A W

Turn left onto International Pky.

Turn left onto Heathrow Center Lane

**Directions from I-95:**

Take I-95 to exit 223 (Sanford/Mims)

Head west on Rt. 46

Turn left onto International Pky.

Turn left onto Heathrow Center Lane

**DKG Florida  
Fall Board Meeting and Workshops  
September 21 – 22, 2018**

***Schedule at a Glance***

**Friday, September 21, 2018**

3:00–6:00 PM

Florida DKG Educational Foundation Board

3:00–9:00 PM Registration

4:00–5:30 PM

Mu State Leadership Development Committee

5:00–5:50 PM

Mu State History Committee

Mu State Personnel Committee and Staff

6:00–6:50 PM

Mu State Finance Committee

Mu State Communications and Marketing Committee

Mu State Membership/Expansion Committee

Mu State World Fellowship Committee

Mu State Committees – unassigned

7:00 – 7:50 PM

1st Timers Welcome and Orientation

Breakout Session I

Mu State Bylaws Committee

Mu State Nominations Committee (newly elected)

Districts II, III & IV Meeting & Planning

8:00–8:50 PM

Social Hour in Grand Foyer

9:00–9:45 PM

Florida DKG Education Foundational Annual Meeting

9:00 – 10:00 PM

Chorus Practice

**Saturday, September 22, 2018**

7:15 AM

Registration

8:00–10:00 AM

Executive Board Meeting

10:15–11:05 AM

Breakout Session II: Districts I, V & VI Meeting & Planning

11:15 AM–12:05 PM

Breakout Session III

12:15–2:30 PM

Luncheon:  
“DKG Women to Watch”

**Help Alpha Kappa Chapter  
Research Their Founders**



**Alpha Kappa Chapter** will host a Diamond Jubilee in 2019 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of their chapter's formation. They are trying to locate founders who might attend their celebration, send a recorded greeting from home, and/or contribute memorabilia to exhibit. Alpha Kappa Chapter hopes to display memorabilia about our founders, both living and deceased, similar to the photo of **Anne Cromartie** above. The 1955 photo from the Florida State Archives shows Anne teaching a nutrition class.

**Alpha Kappa Original Founders**

Miriam W. Black

Frances C. Cannon

Doris Cox

Alice Cromartie (Cassels)

Helen E. Deans

Juanita de Vette

Sarah Lou Hammond

Elizabeth Heil

Mildred Swearingen

Mary Neal James

Helen Nistindirk

Allie E. Ferguson

Sue Malone Barnett

Lucy Tokheim

Mary Witt

Clyde Johnson

Mary ?Achamberst? Schamberst

Emmalee Brown

Minnie Lamberth

Geraldine Adams

Jessie M. Bailey

Myrtle Blair

Harriette McCarter (who lives at Westminster Oaks in Tallahassee).

The above names were taken from the original Chapter Charter signed on June 27, 1959. If you know the whereabouts of any of Alpha Kappa's original founders, please contact:

**Gale Workman**, Vice President, Alpha Kappa  
gale\_workman@hotmail.com  
850-228-1867.



## The Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar

**Dr. Carleen Spano, Chair, Leadership**  
**cspano@comcast.net**

Allow me to present the leadership class of 2018!

The Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar Committee is proud to announce the completion of the biennial seminar with 29 key women educators from across the State of Florida. They gathered on the afternoon of Sunday, June 24, 2018, at the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary. The group, hailing from Pensacola to Homestead, quickly immersed themselves in get acquainted activities along with welcome refreshments and snacks after their journey.

Along with the committee, the participants were joined by DKG Florida and DKG International leaders to address a plethora of topics that related to the profession of education as it is practiced today and as it faces the future. As well, there were opportunities for personal reflection and goal setting as each was encouraged to develop a personal plan and agenda – whether working or retired. And, of course, advancement of the society was a focal point as one of the seminar goals is to promote leadership in DKG.

The committee had been in preparation for this event over the last two years, using feedback from previous seminars, but maintaining the overall outline and emphasis on professional development, personal growth, and leadership opportunities in The Delta Kappa Gamma Society. 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 partnered with a member from another district. Relationships were quickly formed, dinner plans were made, and the closing tributes 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. On Tuesday, participants selected a topic of their choice from an array that included assertiveness, delegation, facilitating teams, mediation, negotiation and conflict resolution, 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 elegant dinner was a very special event featuring an informal but inspirational talk by Dr. Kara Colangelo whose topic was aptly titled "I will." Wednesday morning was dedicated to moving forward with goal setting and the culminating celebration of accomplishment and completion. Graduation exercises were held, and **Mu State President Carol Ann Casey** presented the newly minted "graduates" with their leadership pins.

Participants always conclude their experience by providing 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 as they plan for the 2020 seminar.

The 2020 seminar will be held at the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary from Sunday afternoon, June 14, to Wednesday, June 17, 2020. Applications will become available on the DKG Florida website and will be accepted electronically or by regular mail (postmarked) until March 15, 2020. Further, one-page short forms will be available at the 2019 Fall Workshop meeting and district meetings.

At the September Fall Workshop, attend the "Taste of Leadership" breakout session. It will feature three graduates from the class of 2018 who will present a variety of leadership topics. Join us at that session to see what the Leadership Seminar may have in store for you!

# The Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar Lake Mary, Florida - Class of 2018



Pictured from left to right starting with the front row:

Row 1: Sandy Byers, Sam King, Bonnie Ignico, Pat Litterick, Carol Ann Casey, Dr. Carleen Spano, Carrie Frye, Missy Jones, Dr. Beverly Helms, Dr. Kay Clawson, and Terry Stanilonis.

Row 2: Joann Kinder, Vicky Biro, Izzy Parrado, Lynda MacPherson, Arlene Burrows, Angela Wright-Nash, Dr. Victoria Eastman, Elisa Spencer, and Elizabeth Harper.

Row 3: Allyson Gantt, Alice Faye Marshall, Anne Holzafel, Marla Metge, Debbie Phelps, Delores Hudson, Brenda Elebash, Wafa Elsaka, and Lisa Cobertson.

Row 4: Jennifer Stanjeski, DeeDee Rice, Sarah Watters, Marsha Mayers, Rebecca Beasley, DeeAnn Hennnighan, Nancy Bentz, Nancy Watson, Paula Nelson-Shokar, Lana Tatom, and Sydney Basford.

## Poetry Corner *DKG: Women Key Educators Are Facilitators Who Are:*

- F** = Friendly and fair-minded
- A** = Authentic & accountable
- C** = Caring, communicative, courageous, courteous
- I** = Informative, intuitive, inspirational
- L** = Loyal leaders under pressure
- I** = Impartial, imaginative & innovative
- T** = Teachers, think positively, thankful
- A** = Adaptable & ambitious
- T** = Thoughtful, trusting, triumphant, tough
- O** = Optimistic, open-hearted, open-minded
- R** = Reliable, resilient, resourceful
- S** = Self-confident, self-disciplined, secured, strong



Izzy Parrado, President  
Alpha Omega Chapter  
District V  
The Florida Jesslyn McBride  
Leadership Seminar  
June 2018



## 2018-20 District I Co-Directors



**Kathy Diesner**

**kathydiesner@gmail.com**

**Kathy Diesner** is a retired elementary teacher who is also National Board Certified. She lives in Cottondale, Florida. As a member of **Delta Theta Chapter** since 2009, Kathy currently serves as their Recording Secretary. Through the years, she has also served as committee chairman for several DKG committees. Kathy and her husband enjoy traveling to Maryland and Connecticut to visit their daughters and grandsons. They also love to go camping, hiking, and kayaking with their extended family and friends.

and

**Linda Wunderly**

**lindawund@hotmail.com**



**Linda Wunderly**, a Co-Director for District 1, lives in Cottondale, Florida. She is a retired elementary school teacher who holds National Board Certification. Linda has been a member of **Phi Chapter** since 2006 and a past president of Phi Chapter. She attended The Florida Jesslyn Leadership Seminar in 2016 and currently serves on the DKG Florida World Fellowship Committee. Kathy enjoys camping with her immediate and extended family.

## 2018-2020 District II Director



**Terry Stanilonis**

**tistan@bellsouth.com**

**Terry Stanilonis** of Middleburg, Florida, joined the **Beta Mu Chapter** of Delta Kappa Gamma in 2002. Terry's involvement at the chapter level includes chapter president, vice-president, corresponding secretary as well as filling several committee positions. Terry attended The Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar in 2011. Following the seminar, Terry was asked to fill an open position on DKG Florida's Communications and Publicity Committee. She is currently serving on DKG Florida's Leadership Committee.

In 2013, Florida hosted the Southeast Regional Conference in Orlando. Terry was asked to serve as Master of Ceremonies for Florida Night, as well as ensure all rooms were set-up with the required technology for break-out sessions.

Terry's attendance and participation at both DKG Florida Fall Board Meeting/Workshops and State Conventions is consistent as is her travels to various district meetings throughout the state. She has also attended several Southeast Regional Conferences and International Conventions.

Terry is excited about the opportunity to serve District II and is looking forward to offering support, building new friendships, and enhancing networking opportunities between chapters. We are moving forward as a Society, and Terry believes District II has much to offer.



## 2018-2020 District III Director



**Yvonne McShay**  
ymcshay@gmail.com

### *My Delta Kappa Gamma Journey!*

In 2000, **Yvonne McShay** became a member of DKG with **Delta Beta Chapter** in Lakeland, Florida.

After serving and progressing through the leadership process of Second Vice-President and First Vice-President, Yvonne became Chapter President from 2008-2010.

At the state level, Yvonne participated in The Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar and the following Mu State Committees:

- Scholarship
- Awards
- Emergency Relief Fund
- Educational Excellence Committee and
- World Fellowship.

She served as DKG Florida's Chairperson of the Emergency Relief Fund and the Educational Excellence Committee.

Yvonne attended Southeast Regional Conferences in Little Rock, Arkansas; Orlando, Florida, where she introduced the incoming state presidents; and Savannah, Georgia.

Yvonne published an article in Volume 72, Issue 2 of the DKG Bulletin. She also submitted numerous articles the **Florida Rays** on Recognitions and Appreciations, Leadership Growth Seminar, Betty Thornton Arts & Crafts Exhibition, and the International Educational Excellence Committee Training for State Organization Chairs.

In the summer of 2018, Yvonne McShay was featured on the DKG International's website in the **Member Spotlight** where she was recognized for her many contributions to education and her community.

## 2018-2020 District IV Directors



**Diana Brown**



**Sandy Reaves**

**dbrown4710@gmail.com**  
**reaves101@aol.com**

**Diana Brown** and **Sandy Reaves** served as Co-Presidents of **Gamma Delta** from 2014-2016. Sandy also served as Gamma Delta President from 1998-2000. Both have served Gamma Delta through chairmanships and membership on various committees. During their tenure as Gamma Delta Co-Presidents, active membership increased significantly including a focus on reaching out to recruit younger members and members from various cultural ethnicities. The chapter has 68 members.

They were responsible for Gamma Delta's origination and approval of their website through DKG Florida and International. The chapter received commendation from International for the creation and organization of the website. Gamma Delta's strategic action plan was also created and submitted to DKG Florida for approval. Gamma Delta was recognized at Mu State and received the World Fellowship Award. Both Diana and Sandy have attended DKG Florida workshops/conventions and presented at DKG Florida meetings. Sandy has attended The Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar. Both of these candidates have attended District IV meetings. They continue to be active within the local chapter and participate in both member and leadership activities.

**Sandy Reaves** earned a B.A. in Elementary Education and a Masters in Education in Educational Leadership from the University of Central Florida. She has served as an elementary teacher, assistant principal, and principal for Lake County Schools.

**Diana Brown** earned a B.A. in Elementary Education and a Masters in Education in Exceptional Child Education from the University of Central Florida. She served as an elementary teacher, high school teacher, Title 1 Program Specialist, and Director of the Effective Teaching Center which was a program within Professional Development in Lake County Schools that achieved national recognition.

## 2018-2020 District V Director



**Myrna Santos**  
ESLCARE@aol.com

**Myrna Santos** served two bienniums as chapter president of **Beta Alpha**. Currently, she serves DKG Florida as Chair of the World Fellowship Committee and a member of the History Committee. During the 2016-2018 International biennium, she was a member of the International World Fellowship Committee. Prior to that, Myrna was a member of the DKG Florida World Fellowship Committee. Myrna has formed close bonds with the recipients of the World Fellowship scholarships and maintained connections with them as they achieve their goals and share their inspirational stories.

For more than 25 years, Myrna has taught English to non-native speakers of all ages and levels, but her focus now is predominantly to teach coursework pertaining to post-secondary and college level adults. She has her own English language school, "English Made Easy," which was successfully begun in 2008. Myrna also owns a dealership in The Hillsboro Antique Mall, and she has been operating that business for 15 years. Myrna is a collector in many diverse categories, and she loves acquiring items from the past and learning of their history. She appreciates the sense of wonder and lore that it affords.

Myrna is an experienced writer having been published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing, and she has done extensive work in editing and authoring articles, as well as having studied journalism, written short stories, and annotated essays. The link to her most recent book ***An Introvert in an Extrovert World: Essays on the Quiet Ones*** is below:

<http://www.cambridgescholars.com/an-introvert-in-an-extrovert-world>

She has also authored ***Sailing Into the Sunset: A Tribute to the Skipper of my Heart***, a memoir of an incident that had a strong impact on her life. It is also available on Amazon. In the fall of this year, her second book, published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing, will be out. Its title is ***Handmaids, Tributes and Careers: Dystopian Females' Roles and Goals***.

## 2018-20120 District VI Directors

**Joan Higgins**  
gammanuhiggins@yahoo.com



In 2018, Ray and **Joan Higgins** have been married for 51 years, and they have two adult children and two grandsons. She loves traveling, reading with the Gamma Nu Book Club, and everything involving education and lifelong learning.

In 2005, Joan joined the **Gamma Nu Chapter** and quickly became the chapter's second vice president, first vice president, and president for two bienniums. She enjoyed serving on several DKG Florida committees- Communications, Nominations, Educational Excellence as the Arts & Crafts Liaison, and most recently the Necrology Chair for the Membership Expansion Committee. Joan loves to sing, so she enjoyed the Mu State Choir, too.

During her 32 years as an educator, Joan taught secondary English, Intensive Reading, Spanish, ESOL, and Gifted and Talented. She also served as an Elementary Assistant Principal in San Diego. Currently, Joan is an Adjunct Supervisor for Student Teachers at Florida Gulf Coast University.

and  
**Kathy Avery**  
averykat5@aol.com



Living in North Port, FL, **Kathy Avery** is the mother of two adopted children, Cecilia Ruth and Emmeline Rae. Kathy earned her B.S. in Elementary Education from Florida Atlantic University and her Masters in Education in Curriculum and Instruction from National Louis University. She was a classroom teacher at Heron Creek Middle, Glenallen Elementary, and Englewood Elementary. Kathy developed and administered syllabus and overall course structure, integrated subject areas, and modified curriculum for Special Education and English as a Second Language students.

Initiated into DKG in 2003, Kathy was treasurer and two term president of **Zeta Chapter**. At the state level, she participated in the 2004 DKG Florida Leadership Growth Seminar, chaired the Scholarship Committee, served as District VI Director, and voted into the DKG Florida Hall of Fame in 2015. Kathy has attended DKG Florida Fall Board Meeting/Workshops, State Conventions, and Southeast Regional Conferences in New Orleans, Louisville, New York City, and Orlando.

## Beta Nu Celebrates 50 Years

Laura Murray, President, Beta Nu Chapter



Beta Nu Chapter, in District IV, celebrated its 50th Anniversary on May 19, 2018, with current and past members. **DKG Florida President Carol Ann Casey** joined us as our guest speaker. Members also enjoyed wonderful presentations of our history by **Pat McCoy, Stella Fullede, and Lori Howard**. Music was provided by **Lonnie Kirsch** with **Ruth Yielding** at the piano. **Barbara James** created an arrangement of flowers chosen for their representation of the best characteristics of our past presidents. **Beta Nu** shared memories and enjoyed the company of fellow members over quiche, fruit, and salad catered by Brown Cow Sweetery, a locally owned restaurant.

## Submit Bylaws, Amendments & Examine Chapter Rules

**Barbara VanDiepen, Chair, Bylaws**  
vandiepen61@bellsouth.net

The Bylaws Committee urges you to examine the DKG Florida bylaws and submit any changes to the committee for consideration at the DKG Florida Convention in 2019. Following the International Convention held this summer, the committee may need to make changes based upon what happened in Austin. You have plenty of time to think about and consider any changes you may recommend. We just wanted to give you a heads up and to remind you that any proposed changes to the bylaws must be published in the **Florida Rays** at least 60 days prior to the State Convention. Any proposed changes should be submitted to the committee prior to November 1, 2018.

To chapter presidents, you should also revisit your chapter rules to make sure they are in compliance with both DKG Florida and International's documents. If you have any questions or need help, please contact **Barbara Van Diepen, DKG Florida Bylaws Chair**, at vandiepen61@bellsouth.net.

## New Delta Xi Chapter Formed in The Villages

Dr. Margie Hunt, Corresponding Secretary  
Margie314159@aol.com



A unique chapter of retired women was recently created on May 26, 2018, in The Villages, a retirement community of more than 100,000 people. **Dr. Margie Hunt** started this chapter with the help of five other DKG transfers from the **Gamma Delta Chapter**. At the **Delta Xi Chapter** installation/initiation there were sixteen charter members in attendance, including six initiates, five reinstated ladies, and five transfers. Since it was held on Memorial Day weekend, not all of the women wishing to become members of **Delta Xi** could attend. Consequently, another initiation and reinstatement will take place this fall for eight more women.



The chapter installation was conducted by the following officers of DKG Florida: **President Carol Ann Casey, Executive Secretary Carrie Frye, and Membership/Expansion Chair Nancy Marmesh**. The new executive board for Delta Xi are as follows: **President Marilyn Freeman, First Vice President Jane Bakke, Second Vice-President Lillian Burcham, Recording Secretary Dr. Margie Hunt, Corresponding Secretary Beth Bowen, and Treasurer Gail Feind**.

Since all of the members of Delta Xi are retired, all meetings and activities will occur during weekdays. Delta Xi's first service project will be to collect and distribute books to elementary students at the six food pantries located around The Villages.

## DKG Women Go “Batty” in Texas!

### Brenda Johnson, President, Lambda Chapter



From the moment Florida members arrived in Texas, we became acutely aware of the sight-seeing pride of Austin— the bats under the bridge! Aiding and preserving our wildlife is gaining momentum worldwide, and Austin apparently has forward-thinking city fathers. Being in the birthplace of DKG reminded us of the dreams of Dr. Annie Webb Blanton and the eleven founding sisters. Each of the Headquarters tours were filled daily, as DKG women learned more about our society’s legacy.

Hats off to the remarkable presenters who brought us valuable information from current best practices in education to tips on how to de-clutter your life! The breakout sessions and the mini Takeaway sessions served to inform DKG members of material that can help each of us to better our lives. Shopping is not for the faint of heart as was proven by our DKG ladies in The Marketplace!

The generosity of DKG ladies never ceases to amaze me. The delicious regional breakfasts were a hit beginning with purple grits and ending with a boost of over \$30,000 collected for the Emergency Fund. Many sisters have received aid from this fund, and DKG members continue to help their sisters through natural disasters that wreak havoc to their homes and communities. The highlight though was the announcement that **Debra Graff** was DKG Florida’s 2018 Star of the Southeast.



After sitting through the General Sessions and sifting through the proposed amendments and standing rules of our DKG Constitution, the marathon ended each day with fun-filled evening activities beginning with Texas Night! Our hostesses pulled out all the stops to accommodate and entertain us. Boots and cowboy hats came out again on Wednesday night as many members gathered for the gala Foundation Night,

The Banquet gave us new inspiration as we thanked DKG International President Carolyn Pittman for her outstanding leadership and welcomed Cathy Daugherty to take us into the next biennium. Cathy challenged us to continually embrace change as it is essential for DKG to progress and grow. She reminded us to continue to be leading women educators as we impact education worldwide. Florida members were delighted to have our own **Dr. Helen Popovich** selected as the International Parliamentarian.

The best part of the 2018 DKG International Convention was hearing the shrieks of delight when women from every state and 17 countries reconnected as they recognized and embraced their longtime DKG Sisters. Their lively conversations and laughter remind us of our purpose, the sisterhood we share, and the enduring friendships that evolve over the years. Let’s begin preparing for Asheville in 2019.

## Chapters Share Their Vision

### Alpha Beta Chapter

**Alpha Beta** held its Inaugural Scholarship Tea and Fashion Show on June 23, in the magnificent St. John's Cathedral. **Linda Zeiler** and **Karen Goins** provided an array of delicious tea sandwiches and desserts, along with assistance from other members. **Gloria Morrison** created the beautiful floral table decorations. Fashions were provided by our own lovely models. Teachers teach, but they also do! Everything was done by present and retired teachers of Alpha Beta- music, programs, technology, fashion show, marketing, and communications. A tour of the Cathedral was given just prior to closing by Mrs. Donna Meyer-Perry who is the Parish Life Director for St. John's Cathedral.



We are immensely grateful for the support of our sister chapters, St. John's Cathedral, and the Episcopal Diocese of Florida. Our guests commented on how much they enjoyed the tea and looked forward to coming back next year. It was a beauTEAful event!

### Beta Alpha Chapter

The **Beta Alpha** annual grant, in memory of chapter member and veteran teacher, **Nancy Wengren**, was awarded this year to Cooper City High School senior, Madison Sauer. Maddie will be attending Florida International University next year majoring in Geography and Secondary Education. Chapter members attended the evening

awards assembly at the high school on May 16 and a breakfast meeting on June 2 to congratulate



late and meet Madison. Pictured above with Madison at the breakfast meeting are officers and members of Beta Alpha Chapter, District V.

### Beta Sigma Chapter

Recently, **DKG Beta Sigma Chapter** raised \$1,332 for the Brevard Rescue Mission. "We are pleased to support the awe-inspiring work and successes that happen at Brevard Rescue Mission," said **Carol Killingsworth**, **President of Beta Sigma Chapter**. Pictured



above are **Carol Killingsworth** (left) and **Brenda Robbins** (right) presenting a check to Shari Hoover, Director of Development for Brevard Rescue Mission.

### Beta Xi Chapter

Three Palm Beach chapters (**Alpha Omega**, **Beta Xi**, and **Gamma Lambda**) worked together on their annual Founders Day celebration. **Beta Xi** had 12 members attend this event at the Palm Beach National Country Club where they initiated three

new members- **Sophie Grunder**, **Alicia Torres**, and **Dr. Chelly**



**Templeton**. **Beta Xi** presented three Community Service Awards to **Nan Gallagher**, **Jane Hart**, and **Gay Voss**. A Hall of Fame Award was honorably presented to **Linda Petuch**. Officers were introduced and a joint, collaborative community service project was announced. The three chapters also contributed toys to the St. Mary's Children's Hospital.

### Gamma Gamma Chapter

**Gamma Gamma Chapter** members **Robin McGue** and **Roxanne Berger** chat with "Annie Webb Blanton" at the International Convention held in Austin, Texas.



### Jacksonville Joint Meeting

Five chapters in Jacksonville joined together for their final meeting of the year. On May 19, 2018, five ladies were initiated into DKG at the Queens Harbor Yacht and Country Club: **Karen W. Goins**,



**Linda Marees**, **Mary Ann Rouse**, **Diane Richter**, and **Celina Skrtich**.



## Building a Chapter Website

**Neena Grosvenor, Chair**  
**DKG Florida's**  
**Communications & Marketing**  
**mustatecommunicationscommittee@**  
**gmail.com**

One important reason to have a chapter website is to attract educators to the organization and to provide a place where a candidate can learn more about the chapter. Consider building a chapter website and sharing the link with potential candidates. The chapter website can showcase the contributions the chapter has made to education, local educators, schools, and the community. It can also feature a historical perspective of the chapter and spotlight the chapter's support for educational initiatives at the chapter, state, and International levels. When a potential candidate wants to know more about the organization or the chapter in which she is considering membership, she can visit the chapter website beforehand to learn more about the chapter.

In order for the chapter website to be certified and linked to the Delta Kappa Gamma International, there are a few requirements. There are items that must be added to the chapter website, such as the seven purposes and the organization's mission and vision statements. To access the complete DKG website criteria, go to <https://tinyurl.com/yacr8rcn>.

A free website builder that is easy to use is Weebly. There are other free website creators, such as Google Sites and Wix.com. If building a website for the first time, Weebly is the best choice. Weebly essentially is a drag and drop platform for easy website creation. To view a playlist of how-to videos created by Delta Kappa Gamma on building a website using Weebly, visit:

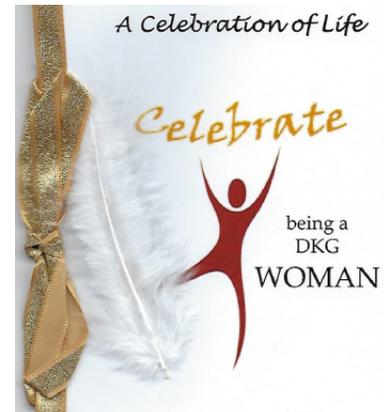


[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9LGbIV1\\_pS1Me9QwYgA0f\\_afosQDNKiJ](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9LGbIV1_pS1Me9QwYgA0f_afosQDNKiJ)

Weebly offers a free URL, or if you prefer a unique URL, there are paid third party domain name hosts, such as GoDaddy, which offer this type of service. There are many other companies that offer this service. Keep in mind most domain name services are paid plans.

Once your chapter website is built, vetted, and approved, the link can then be included in a chapter brochure which can be shared with potential candidates. Those wanting to know more about your chapter and our organization can visit your website to learn more about the important work your chapter does, and the variety of activities and events in which your chapter is involved.

The DKG.org website offers many useful resources to aid in launching a successful web presence for your chapter. See the Tools tab and the Communications and Publicity tab to preview additional helpful resources.



**Dr. Anita B. Barnes**  
**Alpha Gamma Chapter**  
**January 22, 2018**  
**Arcadia, FL**

**Anita Barnes** was initiated into DKG on December 6, 2003, and she was a member of **Alpha Gamma Chapter**.

**Leni Dupee**  
**Beta XI**  
**May 3, 2018**  
**Palm Beach, FL**

**Leni Depee** was born on January 9, 1937, and passed away on May 3, 2018. She was a teacher, math resource teacher, and principal at three schools during her 30 plus years in education with the School Board of Palm Beach County. After retirement, Leni spent the next twelve years working at Okeeheelee Nature Center as a School Program Coordinator. She organized field trips for students to come and learn about the Florida environment. One of her thrills was being trained to hold and talk about several of the resident birds of prey.

Leni was an active member of **Theta Chapter**, which merged in 2015 with **Beta Xi**, giving the members of her new chapter the opportunity to see her genuine love for DKG. She used her quilting skills to raise monies for

the organization. She enthusiastically attended chapter outreach programs, educational activities, and social events. Her kind heart and bright smile brought encouragement and wisdom to our young DKG **Beta Xi** members.

Donations to the Leni Dupee Scholarship may be sent to the Beta Xi Treasurer Debrah Bowen, at 11287 52nd Road North, West Palm Beach, Florida, 33411. This scholarship will be funding DKG leadership and professional development opportunities. A percentage of the donations will also be contributed to the Florida DKG Educational Foundation.

**Cornelia Watson Gause  
Kappa Chapter  
June 12, 2018**



**Cornelia Gause** died on June 12, 2018, at her home in Canton, Georgia. She was born on July 12, 1918, in Coleman, Florida, before the family moved to Clearwater, Florida, in 1922. Cornelia attended North Ward Elementary, Clearwater Junior High, and graduated from Clearwater Senior High in January of 1936.

In 1941, Cornelia received a B.S. degree in Education from Florida State College for Women, now Florida State University. While in college, she was an honors student graduating cum laude. Cornelia earned the title of Emblem Wearer, a Hall of Fame award for exceptional athletes who were the foundation of Florida State University's Intercollegiate Athletic Program.

She taught at Skycrest Elementary School, Kennedy Junior High School, and Clearwater Senior High School. In 1973, Cornelia returned to college to earn an Masters degree in Math Education from the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

**Shirley Elizabeth Howard  
Gamma Delta Chapter  
June 20, 2018  
Yalaha, FL**



At the age of 88, **Shirley E. Howard** of Leesburg, Florida, passed away on June 20, 2018, while under the care of hospice at the home of her son & daughter-in-law in Yalaha. She was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in Canada, on April 5, 1930.

Shirley earned a Bachelors of Arts degree in Music and a Masters in Gifted Education. She was the first recipient of the Fulbright Scholarship from Rollins College. A resident of Leesburg for over 60 years, she taught music at several area schools, sharing her passion and love of the arts with children.

Initiated on October 1, 1977, Shirley was a DKG member for over 40 years. She served on the Music Committee in **Gamma Delta** using her talents to lead the Christmas caroling and providing the delicious "secret recipe" punch for the holiday meetings.

**Emily Jean Miller  
Kappa Chapter  
June 11, 2018  
Bradenton, FL**



**Emily Jean Miller**, 92, of Bradenton, Florida, died on June 11, 2018. She was born in North Vernon, Indiana, on August 25, 1925. In 1954, she moved to Florida from Hobart, Indiana. Emily had a degree in both music and art. She taught first grade at Palmetto Elementary and Samoset Elementary before retiring with 37 years of service. Initiated on April 1, 1964, Emily has been a member of the **Kappa Chapter** for 54 years. She was also a member of the First United Methodist Church of Palmetto for 64 years.

**Ann Stout  
Gamma Nu Chapter  
June 16, 2018  
Port Charlotte, Florida**



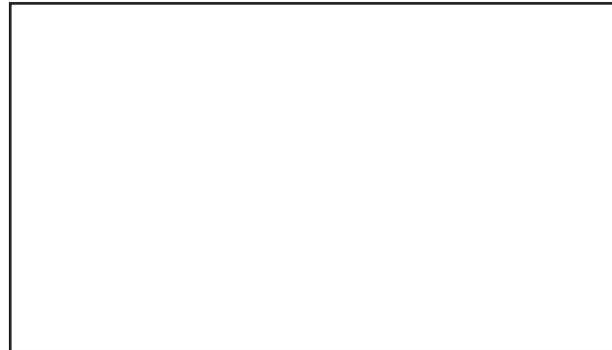
**Ann Stout**, 77, of Port Charlotte, Florida, passed away on June 16, 2018. Born Bessie Ann Fields in Illinois, in December of 1940, Ann and her husband Charles W. Stout were married in 1966. They moved from her native Illinois to Port Charlotte in 1980. For 26 years, Ann was the Director of the Charlotte Technical Center's Culinary Arts & Commercial Foods Department. As a retired educator, she served as Past President of the Florida Retired Educators Association. As a **Gamma Nu Chapter** member since April 4, 2007, Ann served on the Membership Committee, participated in fundraising, and modeled at their fashion show.

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**Florida Rays**

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

Folding the **Florida Rays** reduces the cost for mailing.  
Thanks for your patience and understanding.

**Information Sources**

**DKG Florida Website**  
[www.dkgmustateflorida.weebly.com](http://www.dkgmustateflorida.weebly.com)

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

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

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

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

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

**Chapter President**

Form 6, Report of the Death of a Florida DKG Member, is to be prepared by the chapter president immediately upon the death of a member. A copy is to be sent to each of the following:

**Membership Services Administration**  
P.O. Box 1589  
Austin, TX 78767  
or [mem@dkg.org](mailto:mem@dkg.org)

**Beverly Stagg**  
DKG Florida Treasurer  
[bastagg@hotmail.com](mailto:bastagg@hotmail.com)

**Joann Higgins**  
DKG Florida Necrology  
[gammanuhiggins@yahoo.com](mailto:gammanuhiggins@yahoo.com)

**Upcoming Meeting Dates**

**DKG Florida Fall Executive Board Meeting / Workshops**  
**September 21-22, 2018**  
**Orlando Marriott Lake Mary**

**2019 DKG Florida Convention**  
**April 26-28, 2019**  
**Orlando Marriott Lake Mary**

**Southeast Regional Conference**  
**June 27-29, 2019**  
**Crowne Plaza Resort Asheville, NC**