



Baker of Butterfly Cookies at Fall Executive Board Meeting & Workshops

Linda Zeiler, Alpha Beta Chapter, is a lifelong baker who first became interested in decorating sugar cookies over four decades ago. Her self-taught efforts were limited to the Christmas, Halloween, and Valentine cookies she baked for family members and students during her 38-year career.

In 2009, Linda upped the level of what she could achieve with decorated cookies. On a November morning, she walked into the San Mateo Elementary Media Center where she spotted the bookkeeper and media specialist struggling to create a gingerbread replica of the school. The local Rotary Club had approached administration and requested that the school enter a Rotary-sponsored gingerbread house in Jacksonville's Gingerbread Extravaganza. As they tried to find a way to rescue the gingerbread school's sagging roof, Linda offered that she had some experience with cookie decorating and could finish the creation with her gifted students. The two women gladly turned the project over to Linda who used the gingerbread school as a problem-solving activity with her students. The final effort was awarded "People's Choice" at the competition.



The next year Linda and her students recreated Kingsley Plantation, complete with Santa and his team of gators to pull the sleigh, and won "Best In Show" and a \$1,000 gift for the school. Linda's last challenge was recreating Nauschenwein Castle. Each effort gave her students opportunities to brainstorm how candies, cookies, cereals, and other food items could be used to create elements of the structures and surrounding environment. This also challenged Linda to learn new techniques for some of the color mixes and structural finishes. All of this improved the overall appearance of her decorated sugar cookies.

COVID-19 and social distancing found Linda with more time to focus on her cookie hobby. She joined a professional and hobbyist cookie decorating page on Facebook where members shared new techniques and helped each other improve their craft. After hours of viewing "how to" Youtube videos and taking private lessons, Linda was able to take her cookie-making to another level. Her neighbors, mostly retired and social-distancing, were the happy recipients of her efforts.

Today Linda bakes and decorates cookies at least 2-3 times a month. Because she doesn't want to sell cookies professionally, most of her cookies are made for DKG, church events, and philanthropic causes. Linda has hosted meetings for **Alpha Beta Chapter** where sisters learned techniques and tricks for making eye-pleasing and tasty cookies. One of Linda's most recent efforts was baking and decorating 160 butterfly cookies for the DKG Fall Workshop to go along with the theme, "Change is HEALTHY and BEAUTIFUL. Ask a butterfly."



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Spotlight on... Mary Kay Pieski

Dr. Mary Kay Pieski's article entitled "Reimagining Teaching with a Global Mindset and Intercultural Competence" has been selected for inclusion in the 2021, Volume 87-5 issue of *The Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin*. Mary Kay resides in Groveland, Florida. Since 1999, Dr. Pieski has maintained membership in **Gamma Delta Chapter**.



Spotlight on...New Necrology Chair

Bonnie Ignico
vbignico@gmail.com



Bonnie Ignico is a retired teacher after 38 years. She taught Art at the elementary school level, Art and Drama at the middle school level, the Gifted Program at the high school level, and the State Daycare Training Program at the community college level. No matter what the level, her enjoyment of teaching students was her passion.

This is Bonnie's 25th anniversary as a member of DKG. In 1996, Bonnie was invited into **Mu Chapter** by **Kaye Kearse**. They worked together at both the middle and high schools. At the beginning of her second year, Mu Chapter needed a treasurer, so Bonnie volunteered and held the office for eleven years. This led to her leadership role as chapter president three times. At the state level, she has been chair of the Emergency Fund, member of the Jesslyn Mc Bride Leadership Seminar, participant in Rally to Tally, and now Necrology Chair. The most impressive office was Direct III Director, the first district director from her chapter which was formed in 1945. Bonnie has also shared her artistic talents by giving workshops at District III Meetings, Fall Workshops, State Conferences, and Southeast Regional Conferences. Her art has been on exhibit in the Betty Thornton Arts & Crafts Exhibition, and she also sold her art at the DKG Market Place.

When a chapter member passes away, Bonnie is asking each chapter president, or their designee, follow these instructions:

1. Fill out Form 6.
2. Write on the form your district number.
3. Add to the relative's information a phone number or email address.
4. Attach a jpg photo of the member for the state newsletter, so we can visually remember her.

Bonnie is proud to be chair of the Necrology Committee. Our dear members who have passed were devoted to DKG for many years. These women deserve always to be honored; therefore, Bonnie wants to make sure all deaths are reported, and a photo helps to bring back memories.

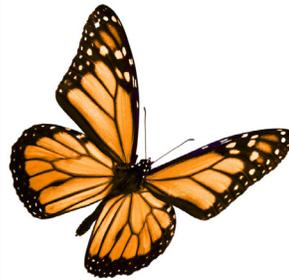


President's Message



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

Greetings Florida State Organization,



***“CHANGE is
 HEALTHY and BEAUTIFUL.
 Ask a Butterfly!”***

Many thanks to the members who attended our Fall Executive Board Meeting and Workshops in person and on Zoom. The evaluations showed that everyone

was happy to finally be meeting in person. We formed strong bonds with our sister members across the state. **Gamma Nu Chapter** and **Beta Chi Chapter** had the most members present with ten and nine respectively.

Our speakers were impressive as they related their conference experiences. **Nancy Rosenbaum** attended training in Atlanta with **Mary Jo Holleran** and **Carrie Frye**. **Crystal Woodford** and **Shelia Rome** attended our State Leadership Seminar in June of 2021. **Brenda Johnson** and **Celeste Stewart** attended the San Antonio Regional Conference in July of 2021.

DKG members are always extremely generous. During our Saturday luncheon at the Fall Executive Board Meeting, we donated to our Emergency Fund. We collected over \$1,200 in less than fifteen minutes. Thank you, members, for your continued financial support.

Let's talk money. Dues are sometimes an issue. Of our dues, \$40 goes to International in support of DKG initiatives, \$18 goes to state initiatives, plus one dollar for state scholarships. Whatever you pay above \$59, supports your chapter initiatives. I know if you were asked to give that amount, it would quickly be donated because all members realize the importance of scholarships, advanced leadership development, assisting new educators, supporting Schools for Africa, and many other projects. Your dues, combined with all other members in 17 countries, yields an amount which enables us to fulfill our commitments of support to educators, children, and women around the world.

Our international headquarters in Austin, Texas, has been sold. It is in an extremely prosperous area in Austin with rising taxes. The building is in need of very costly repairs which we cannot afford. Whatever is built on this property will have a sign acknowledging this site as the former headquarters of DKG.

Please plan to attend your District Meeting at the beginning of 2022. The district directors are planning informative and fun activities for your enjoyment.

Thank you for reading the **Florida Rays**. Please share a copy with your chapter members.



District I Meeting: "Let's RENEW in 22!"



January 22, 2022
Port St. Joe Elementary School
Port St. Joe, FL 32456



Ann Comforter, District I Director
anncomforter@gmail.com

You are personally invited to attend our District I Meeting on January 22, 2022, at Port St. Joe Elementary School. Our Theme is "Let's RENEW in 22!" and will focus on a new beginning after the challenges faced by chapters during the pandemic of 2020-2021. The day has been planned to offer a variety of Society presentations that will help us to rediscover and renew our energy in our organization.

Being aware of COVID-19 concerns, District I is planning our entire meeting (except for the presidents' and treasurers' workshops) in the auditorium at Port St. Joe Elementary School. This will allow plenty of room for social distancing. All of the "break-out" sessions will be presentations, so the attendees will stay in the auditorium and hear them all.

Our registration form is located on Florida's DKG website. I'm looking forward to our District I meeting in the historic city of Port St. Joe.

District II Meeting: "DKG Linking Globally"



February 5, 2022
Mandarin Presbyterian Church
11844 Mandarin Road
Jacksonville, FL 32223



District II Co-Directors
Kathy Raiford, kathynole1@comcast.net
Terrye Mosley, mosleyterrye55@gmail.com

District II has planned activities that will excite and delight you at their meeting on February 5, 2022, from **8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** at Mandarin Presbyterian Church in a suburb of Jacksonville.

Passport to a global learning experience with sisters from a delegation of nations

We gave careful consideration to having a theme with a global focus. Remember it was the vision of Dr. Annie Webb Blanton, along with her other founding members, and remains the vision of DKG today!

We hope that you will join the "Parade of Nations" and don a costume of your chosen country. There will be a costume contest, and you will want to represent your country well, so dress to impress! District 2 Ambassadors have passports, tickets, and itineraries prepared for you. There will be lots of surprises in store. Make your reservation today. If paid by January 15, 2022, the cost is **\$30**. For more information, contact **Kathy** or **Terry**. You won't want to miss this worldwide tour!

**District III Meeting:
"Creating a Great DKG!"**



**March 5, 2022
Bayside Church
3380 State Road 580
Safety Harbor, FL**



**Karol Gotte, District III Director
gotteya@aol.com**

Please join us at the District III meeting on Saturday, March 5, 2022. We are going to Create a Great DKG day! We will be creating fellowship, recognizing members, learning experiences, and much more!

Check in at **9:30 a.m.** for coffee and various breakfast snacks. The General Session will begin at **10:00 a.m.** and then you will select two workshop sessions during the morning. Of course, there will be baskets donated by each chapter, so you will want to purchase tickets! Some chapters will have a table for fundraising for their chapter. During lunch, we will hear from guest speaker ***Sarah Painter, Florida Department of Education Teacher of the Year 2022.*** The chapters in District III are preparing to "Create a Great DKG day," and we certainly hope you will join us!

If you have any questions, please contact **Karol Gotte** via email at gottaya@aol.com or call/text her cell phone at 727-420-7299.

**District IV Meeting:
"Dreaming Big and Reaching For Stars"**



**April 2, 2022
First United Methodist, Wesley Center
950 7th Street, Clermont, FL**



**Diane Revels, District IV Director
dcrevels1@gmail.com**

**District IV Meeting Invitation
April 1-2, 2022**

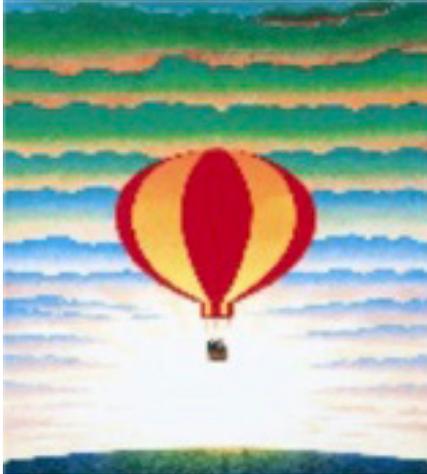
Reserve this date
For the District IV Meeting
And don't be late.

It begins Friday evening
In scenic Minneola you'll see
At Diane Revel's pool
As cool as can be
Don't forget to come early
4:30 p.m. to be exact
On Friday April 1st, no April fool's.
It will be "Time to Flamingle"
With your feathers intact!

On Saturday, April 2nd
Clermont FUMC Wesley Center
Is where we will be.
All DKG sisters invited
We'll be done by three!

"Laughing Often, Dreaming Big,
And Reaching for the Stars", our theme
Mark your calendars now
You don't want to be late.
Registration is now OPEN
For the District IV Meeting . . . DKG Florida State!

District V Meeting: "Onward and Upward!"



February 26, 2022
First Baptist Church of Ft. Lauderdale
301 E. Broward Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, FL



33301
Debbie Sack, District V Director
debsack@aol.com

Mark your calendars for the District V meeting on February 26, 2022, at the First Baptist Church of Fort Lauderdale from 8:15 a.m.-2:15 p.m.

In addition to our General Meeting and Luncheon, there will be workshops for all.

Presidents and Treasurers will have important training and everyone else will have choices between several workshops in each session.

Deadline for registration will be January 14, 2022. The cost including food will be \$65. We hope to see everyone there!

DISTRICT VI MEETING: "Honoring Our DKG All Stars"



March 19, 2022
The Carlisle Inn
3727 Bahia Vista
Sarasota, Florida 34232



Joann T. Higgins, District VI Director
gammanuhiggins@yahoo.com

You are invited to attend our District VI Meeting on March 19, 2022, and our theme is "Honoring Our DKG All Stars!" It will be a celebration of the accomplishments of our chapters during the 2020-2022 biennium, as well as vital preparation for the future of our chapters in southwest Florida. Saturday has been planned to offer a variety of Society workshops of special interest to all members. Meeting registration includes a continental breakfast and a delicious lunch. Please register by January 31, 2022.

If you call for a hotel reservation at The Carlisle Inn, mention that you are with Delta Kappa Gamma and use the CODE: DELTA. Should you want to arrive on Friday evening, our plan for dinner begins at 6 p.m. at the Der Dutchman Restaurant directly across the parking lot of The Carlisle Inn. If you plan to arrive on Friday, please RSVP to our **Registrar Kathy Avery** at averykat5@aol.com, and she will send details for the dinner.

Breakout Sessions at Fall Board Meeting & Workshops

Art & Science of Communication

Presented by the **Communication & Marketing Committee**, the purpose of this workshop was to gain information on methods to enhance communications via technical devices. A panel discussion format increased audience participation.

Building & Supporting Your Chapter Through Technology

Encouraged to bring a cell phone, participants learned how to use zoom, email, websites, and texting as tools for chapter growth and sustainability. Presenters included **Barb Davis**, **Dr. Jackie Green** pictured above, **Mary Jo Holleran**, and **Maria Metge** of **Gamma Nu Chapter**.



Creating Chapters that Make an Impact

The **Educational Excellence Committee** presented a workshop to help chapters make an impact on their community and beyond! Participants learned more about Educational Excellence and how chapters across the state are succeeding!

Don't Let Student Engagement Drive You Bananas

Kim Baggs from **Alpha Sigma Chapter** demonstrated how to use several digital tools, along with engagement strategies and student motivational strategies, to help teachers "eat" bananas instead of going bananas during this age of digital and face-to-face challenges with learning.

Facilitating Virtual Courageous Conversations

Dr. Precious Symonette from **Pi Chapter** led an activity that helped to develop public speaking, writing, and networking skills that enable students to become successful on an academic, professional, and social level.

Florida DKG Educational Foundation

FLDKGEF Board of Directors led participants in discovering the many opportunities for educational grants and professional development awards via an easy application process. Recent recipients shared their stories.

Interacting with the DKG Website

Recent graduates from the 2021 Leadership Seminar Class highlighted areas of interest on the DKG website while modeling creative uses of technology including Prezi, Nearpod, and Wordle.

Jump Starting a Stagnant Chapter



Elinor Mount-Simmons, participant in Leadership Class 2021, provided information on how to invigorate a chapter's leadership team and guide them towards developing a master plan to help the chapter become more active and move forward.

Let's Build & Cultivate Member Relationships

The **Membership/Expansion Committee** shared ways to recruit, retain, and engage members personally and professionally, encourage attendance at meetings, and improve communication within the chapter to maintain interest and involvement of Early Career Educators, Veteran Chapter Members, and Newly Inducted Members.

What's on Your Mind?

The DKG Legislative Committee Wants to Know

Participants learned from a panel of advocacy experts about effective ways to engage with legislators who represent you and your community. Ideas and recommendations for change in our state were shared with members of this committee who represent all members of FL DKG and advocate on behalf of women, children, and education.

Zoom!

The Good, The Bad, or The Best Meeting Ever!



State Parliamentarian Samantha "Sam" King provided tips on how to be an engaged audience and provide support for the presiding officer at a Zoom meeting.

**Florida DKG State Organization
Fall 2021 Executive Board Meeting
Registrar's Report**

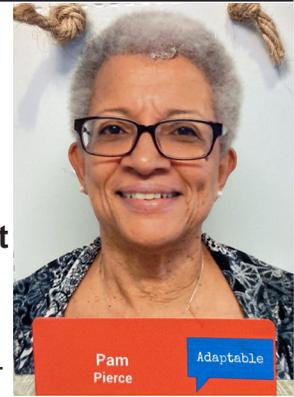


Carolyn McGowan
State Meeting Registrar
mmcdm1@aol.com

Total Registrations	173
In Person	124
Zoom	49
In Person Attendance	117
Friday	104
Saturday	13
Friday Night Dinners Paid	90
First Timers	15
Chapter Presidents	49
In Person	35
Zoom	14
Members with Less than 6 Yrs.	19
In Person	

**Communications &
Marketing
Committee**

Pam Pierce, Chair
chillpierce@comcast.net



The Florida DKG Communi-
cations Committee brings you
greetings as we begin this bien-
nium. Members of the commit-
tee include:

- District 1: **Elinor Mount-Simmons**
- District II: **Pam Pierce**
- District III: **Yvonne McShay**
- District IV: **Vicki Coats**
- District V: **Gussie Sakowicz**
- District VI: **Gale Carter**
- Editor: **Bonnie Kelley (III)**
- Webmaster: **Missy Jones (IV)**
- Corresponding Secretary: **Sharon Wallen (V)**
- Consultant: **Angie Wright- Nash (III)**

Thank you, Communications & Marketing, for your
teamwork!

We presented *The Art and Science of Communi-
cations* workshop for members who were able to
participate in person and virtually. It is important for
members to recognize that communications make the
difference between good and great chapters. Many
of you realize that communication takes a variety
of forms, and all are important to reach the diverse
needs of our members. Remember that snail mail and
phone calls are as important as texts, tweets, web-
sites, and email. It all depends on the audience you
are trying to reach.

Our *Florida Rays* newsletter is a primary and official
source of information for our members. It keeps us
abreast of information from our leaders and mem-
bers throughout the state. When you submit articles
about your members and chapter, we are able to
learn about the wide range of successful programs
and members that make up our organization. We are
committed to providing articles in the *Florida Rays* to
support your chapters.

The DKG state and international websites provide
information on how to run a chapter. It also offers
program ideas and special opportunities for mem-
bers. Members must use their password and sign on
to access these resources. Our focus is to enhance
both internal and external communications.





FL-DKG Scholarship Committee

Angie Wright-Nash, Chair
ang.nash@gmail.com

What comes to mind, when you hear the word “scholarship?” Do you think of awards given to those who have chosen to pursue a degree in the hallowed halls of higher education?

I think that’s what most people think, and it has become one of the goals of the currently serving Scholarship Committee to challenge your way of thinking. The expansion of certification has become a mandate for most teachers, and while some districts cover some of the financial burden or provide assistance to their teachers, there are still often some out-of-pocket expenses that have educators on a salary that has never kept pace with the cost of living. Your district representatives will be suggesting, initially, that you check your chapter bylaws and standing rules to see if the wording therein excludes you from supporting your members in this way, while we work on a permanent solution at the state level for the Delta Kappa Gamma members in Florida. We are NOT suggesting that our solution to the problem is for chapters to do it all for their members, but we think that it’s a start, or a “bandage for the boo-boo,” while we look for a way to heal the problem systemically.

Your district representatives are:

District I	Sharon Simmons	sharonteacher49@yahoo.com
District II	Hope Jernigan	jerniganh@columbiak12.com
District III	L. Michelle Josey	mjosey@tampabay.rr.com
District IV	DeeAnn Hennighan	erryke@hotmail.com
District V	Katie Martinez	katierox1217@gmail.com
District VI	Barb Davis	babsdavis@comcast.net

We are also VERY fortunate to have the active participation of **Florida State Organization Treasurer Beverly Stagg**, from District I, as an ex officio member and ongoing source of information and feedback on our committee. Thank you, Miss Beverly!

The committee has already been busy since the start of this biennium. We’ve established a Google email account for the committee (**scholarship.fldkg@gmail.com**), updated all of the forms and applications for the scholarship (reworking some completely), established the due date for 2022, and submitted to update the Scholarship Committee page on the Florida State Organization website (**https://dkgmustateflorida.weebly.com/scholarship-committee.html**), created the current application in TWO formats – a fillable PDF and a printable form, and began work on an ONLINE application in hopes that we might be able to pilot it this year and put it into play for 2023!

The deadline for the FL-DKG Scholarship application, recommendations, and all related documents is **February 25, 2022**. All information can be found on the Scholarship web page on the Florida State Organization website.

Your district representative will be presenting the 2-Minute Report at their respective district meeting...yes, even at my district’s meeting! It’s important to me, as the chair of the committee, that district presidents recognize that their “person for all things scholarship” in their district is their district representative. I want to make sure that the members of the committee get the recognition that they deserve!



If you have any questions or feedback, please feel free to contact me directly at ang.nash@gmail.com. Have a healthy and Happy New Year!



The 2021-2023 Florida State Organization's Membership/Expansion Committee presented a well-attended breakout session at the 2021 Fall Workshop in Lake Mary. Entitled "Let's Build and Cultivate Member Relationships to Strengthen our Chapters," the committee's PowerPoint presentation highlighted the importance of reaching early career educators, using technology not only when necessary, but also as a standard communication tool, nurturing member relationships, and the importance of offering interesting, relevant, and engaging program topics at our meetings.

With first-year teacher success nearly guaranteed if our newest teachers are paired with a mentor who can offer support in the form of assistance, resources and a listening ear, perhaps the loss of so many quality teachers will not remain a reality in education.

Chapters are encouraged to look within their own communities for these early career educators. There is always a way to reach them, even if remotely. Many new teachers have told us that they didn't know what type of help to ask for, but when approached and offered the support of veteran and retired teachers, they eagerly embraced it. Let's not lose these amazing teachers as they begin their careers, but rather, encourage them to remain dedicated to the profession. Perhaps DKG membership is a way to keep them engaged!

So many of us met via Zoom throughout 2020 because it was the ONLY way for us to stay in communication and to stay current within our chapters. In 2021, while many chapters planned more face-to-face contact, keeping Zoom "in our back pockets" allowed us to reach those who weren't able to be with us in person, and we are still using the technology during our in-person meetings and events. This helps all members feel included and connected.

Program topics are part of every chapter's pre school year discussion. Where should we meet? What do our members want to see or do? Conducting a chapter member survey that asks both of those questions is a great starting place. Members will tell you what they want if you ask them. Consider moving meetings to different parts of your community to accommodate everyone. Is there a museum, library, church, police department, or school setting that would work well for your chapter and align with a program topic?

Whether or not all of your chapter members are attending meetings, there is another way to remain in touch with one another. Put away the agenda, forget about the motions, and don't worry about Robert's Rules- plan a social! Gather chapter members "just because." Have coffee, listen to live local music, plan a lunch, dinner or a walk in the fresh air and Florida sunshine together. These informal gatherings are invigorating. Those that are in the classroom or other school site everyday will welcome the chance to get out and visit. Those that are retired will welcome the chance to catch up with actively working members. You might come away with a new perspective on a variety of topics, you might set up a mentor-mentee relationship, or you might just enjoy seeing pictures of an adorable baby, stunning wedding, or lovely vacation getaway that someone can't wait to share! Go ahead. Make your chapter stronger. You know you want to!

Florida State Organization Membership/Expansion Committee 2021-2023

Chair Mary Jo Holleran, District VI
Diane Driggers, District I
Linda MacAllister, District II

Anne Holzapfel, District III
Debbie Phelps, District IV
Neena Grosvenor, District V

Consultant Dunia Jean-Baptiste, District II

From World Fellowship Chair

Victoria Eastman, Ph.D.
veastman.27@gmail.com



What do you know about DKG World Fellowship? Did you know we have 25 World Fellowship Recipients? We don't have any recipients studying in Florida at this time, but the list of recipients will be updated. Has your chapter already reached out to a recipient? I challenge your chapter to commit to encouraging and supporting some or all the recipients listed in the Society Brochures and Flyers page on the DKG Website. You might decide to reach out to all 25 women, you might reach out to just the women studying in the United States, or maybe you want to narrow your outreach to just the women studying either east or west of the Mississippi River. Former Committee Chair Myrna Santos's desire was for DKG women to encourage and support the recipients who left the safety of their homes to study abroad.

Do you know your World Fellowship Committee members? **Dr. Victoria Eastman, District III, Kappa Chapter** is chair of the committee who serves with **Dr. Charlotte Johnson-Davis, District I, Beta Phi; Annie Ashworth, District II, Gamma Gamma; Marilyn Freeman, District IV, Delta Xi; Linda Petuch, District V, Beta Xi; and Kathy Avery, District VI, Zeta.** As a committee, our goal is to keep Myrna Santos's dream alive supporting women educators all around the world. We empower you to give donations to World Fellowship Program, so that women around the world have opportunities to become more effective educators who will improve the education and conditions in their own countries.

Our committee has worked together to polish the **Myrna Santos World Fellowship Award Application for Chapter Recognition** to assist you in receiving your World Fellowship Award Certificate. This certificate recognizes your level of giving to the World Fellowship Program. The applications will be due to the World Fellowship Committee Chair, Dr. Victoria Eastman by **March 1, 2022**, and the certificates will be presented to you by the World Fellowship Committee member from your district at the Fall Workshop 2022 in Lake Mary, Florida. The Myrna Santos World Fellowship Award application was made available in November.

DKG's International World Fellowship began with an initial award of \$2,500 in 1960. It continues to grow with a grand total of contributions of \$4,158,974.75 as of June 30, 2021. It has impacted the education of 1,029 women educators from 122 countries with \$3,739,250 since 1960. World Fellowship has awarded nineteen \$4,000 awards, four \$2,000 extensions, and two \$1,000 in 2021-22. This totals \$83,500 to 25 women educators from 23 countries. The contributions received by the World Fellowship Program determine the number of World Fellowship Awards given each year by the committee.

What a powerful program DKG is supporting which empowers women educators from 122 countries. As a DKG woman educator, what might you do to support the World Fellowship Program? Would you like to know more about the World Fellowship Program? Go to the DKG website (www.dkg.org), sign in using your DKG ID number, and scroll down to find the Committee link on the right. Click it to find the World Fellowship Committee which is at the bottom of the list. Meet Wendy Stephens of the Southeast Region. Then continue to the recipients awarded in 2020-21. Click on the link and scroll to see the names and contact information of each recipient. Please keep this information private while mentoring recipients with cards and words of encouragement as they study far away from their homes. The last link at the bottom has ideas for fundraising, so you can promote the Florida State Organization World Fellowship Committee financially.



Parliamentary Moment: “When Can I Use the Gavel?”

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

***“A great meeting takes more time to prepare than to present.”
King, PRP***



As President, one of the first items that you will receive is a gavel. There are rules on when and how the gavel may be used. If you are using your gavel during the meeting, it may not be in accordance with Robert's. Let's review what Robert's Rules of Order (RONR) says in regard to the use of the gavel.

Call the meeting to order – To announce that the meeting is starting or beginning.

Chair: [Tap the gavel once] The meeting of the XYZ Chapter will come to order at ____ AM.

Stand at Ease – To allow for a brief pause of the meeting without the declaration of a recess to allow the chair to engage in brief research or consult with the parliamentarian, or other officers.

Members remain in their seats. Quiet conversation is allowed until the meeting is called back to order.

Chair: Without objection, the assembly will stand at ease until called back by order of the chair.

[Tap the gavel once] When the time 'Stand at Ease' has expired:

Chair: [Tap the gavel once] The meeting will come to order.

Recess – To take a short intermission in the proceedings. This motion does not close the meeting. A vote to take a recess is adopted:

Chair: The ayes have it, and the meeting stands Recessed for ten minutes.

[Tap the gavel once] When the ten minutes have expired:

Chair: The meeting will come to order; the time of the recess has expired. [Tap the gavel once]

Adjourn – This motion is used to close the meeting. A motion to adjourn is adopted.

Chair: The meeting is adjourned at 10:20 a.m. [Tap the gavel once]

“The adjournment may be signaled by a single rap of the gavel, if desired.” RONR (12th ed.) 21:20

Disorderly Behavior in a Meeting

“Under no circumstances should the chair attempt to drown out a disorderly member, either by his own voice or the gavel, or permit himself to be drawn into a verbal duel. If unavoidable, however, proper disciplinary proceedings to cope with immediate necessity can be conducted while a disorderly member continues to speak.” RONR (12th ed.) 61:9

“If a member commits only a slight breach of order—such as addressing another member instead of the chair in debate, or, in a single instance, failing to confine his remarks to the merits of the pending question—the chair simply raps lightly, points out the fault, and advises the member to avoid it.” RONR (12th ed.) 61:10

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

Leadership Development Committee

Pat Litterick, Chair
plitterick@att.net

The 2022 Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar will be held at the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary from Sunday afternoon June 26, to Wednesday, June 29, 2022. Applications are available on the DKG Florida website and will be accepted electronically or postmarked by regular mail until **March 15, 2022**. Short form applications will be available at the District Meetings in 2022. Members attending the District VI Meeting on March 19, 2022, or the District IV Meeting on April 2, 2022, will be able to submit the application on that day.



Shelia Rome, Gamma Iota Chapter, District II, attended the 2021 Leadership Seminar. She presented her "Reflections of the Leadership Seminar" at the Fall Executive Board Meeting. Her reflections tell what the seminar is all about.

I Celebrate the Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar

I celebrate the Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar. It carried out the vision of leading women educators. It carried out the vision of impacting worldwide education. Its activities united women in genuine spiritual fellowship. As women and educators, We ate with, laughed with, and collaborated with each other. We confided in, danced with, and celebrated each other. We encouraged each other. We were vulnerable with, strong with, and brave with each other. We shared actual living space or explored virtual rooming. We presented with and presented to each other. We blessed each other, received each other as well as received from each other. We learned each other as well as learned from each other. To say that women educators were united in a genuine spiritual fellowship is an understatement.



We explored the concept of "change." It can help or hurt. Society change. Education change. Dialysis. Canvas online lessons. Masks in schools. Grade system challenges. Yes, we all are experiencing it: change. The Leadership Seminar encouraged us to use tools to face change successfully. Meet the change gracefully, resiliently. Face change. Bounce back. Recover. Incorporate and practice breathing techniques or yoga. Use change to our advantage. To enrich our lives. To prove that there is good yet to be had and good yet to be given.

Yes, change and its impact was infused throughout the Leadership Seminar. It would take more than one hundred eighty seconds to share how the sessions fulfilled all of the Delta Kappa Gamma vision, mission, and purposes. I will just leave you with that: it was a worthy, well-planned, graciously implemented gathering that is just beyond memorable.

By **Shelia Rome**
 September 18, 2021
 Fall Executive Board Meeting





Florida DKG Educational Foundation Annual Board Meeting

Ann Tikka, Board Member
alphadeltadkg@icloud.com

The Board of Directors of the Florida DKG Educational Foundation met through Zoom for the annual meeting on Monday, September 13, 2021. Members present included **Nancy Bentz (chair)**, **Roxanne Berger (Florida Organization President 2022-2024)**, **Dr. Constance Besco (secretary)**, **Carol Ann Casey**, **Debra Graff (webmaster)**, **Dr. Elsie Gross**, **Dr. Beverly Helms (vice chair)**, **Dr. Nancy Henning**, **Connie Kostyra (treasurer)**, **Vicki Simms**, and **Ann Tikka**. The meeting was packed full of information.

The minutes from the April 30, 2021, meeting were approved. Reports were given by the treasurer, Finance Committee, Public Relations Committee, Grants and Awards Committee, Nominations Committee, and webmaster.

New brochures were made available for the Fall Executive Board Meeting & Workshops in all attendee packets. Contribution forms now have a check off for publishing names of donors and will be distributed at spring District Meetings along with brochures which include the current donor list. The names of donors will be printed with their level of contribution and displayed at the District Meetings. ***The Educator Express*** will be published three times per year.

The Foundation gave seven Educational Grants and six Professional Development Awards for a total of \$11,600 in 2020, and four Educational Grants and one Professional Development Award in 2021 for a total of \$4,411. To date, the Foundation has provided nine Professional Development Awards and twelve Educational Grants totaling \$19,828.

Four terms expire for Board Members in 2022. Three are eligible to serve a second term, if nominated. Additionally, a discussion was held about the need to increase the number of directors from 10 to 12, not including the current and immediate past Florida State Presidents, due to the need of publicizing the opportunities available through the Foundation. The more chapters represented, the more widely the information is disseminated. Are you interested in becoming a director for the Foundation? We could potentially add 4-5 members as director terms are ending.

The Florida DKG Educational Foundation will have a presence at each of the upcoming six District Meetings starting in January through March. Board Members will give a two-minute report, brochures, and a workshop to answer questions about the Foundation.

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Foundation at www.fldkgef.org. The updated applications for projects or professional development that occurs between April 1, 2022, and March 31, 2023, are now available on the website. The deadline for funding for 2022 is **February 1, 2022**. If recipients are not able to complete their award or grant and report, it is assumed the monies advanced will be returned for future grants or awards.



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™

Educational Excellence Committee



Nancy Rosenbaum, Chair
nancykrosenbaum@yahoo.com

The Educational Excellence Committee (EEC) is encouraging DKG members to think of GROWTH! Growth does not mean we expand in size, but in how we function in our chapters and state organization. This encompasses how we are inclusive of all our members and work to meet the needs of the communities that we serve.

The role of the Educational Excellence Committee is to promote programs and projects for EXCELLENCE in education. This includes programs and projects that support and promote personal well-being, intellectual growth, and global awareness of women educators.

With this in mind, we are encouraging each chapter to appoint an Educational Excellence Delegate. This person will be responsible for monitoring your chapter's GROWTH and ensuring that your chapter has an understanding of what educational excellence embodies. EEC State Committee Members will be presenting at each District Meeting to provide more information on how each chapter can promote the goals of our Florida State Organization EEC.

The following is the purpose of EEC according to DKG International to assist chapters in considering the creation of an EEC delegate for their chapters:

“This committee shall promote programs and projects for excellence in education. The committee shall identify long-term and short-term programs and projects that focus upon topics adopted by the Society. The committee shall support programs of action that promote the personal well-being, intellectual growth, and global awareness of women educators; encourage a focus on the arts at international conventions, regional conferences, and state organization conventions and develop strategies that will enable chapters to encourage members to become leaders.”

The following are the members of the DKG Florida State Organization EEC:

Nancy Rosenbaum, District I (Chair)
Jane Bakke, District IV (Consultant)
Shelia Rome, District II
Sandra Hinko, District III
Carolyn Lang, District IV
Josie Rodriguez, District V
Jackie Greene, District VI
Vanessa Pinto, District I (Music)
Lonnie Kirsch, District IV (The Arts)
Cheryl Shambaugh, District III (Emergency Fund)
Angie Wright-Nash, District III (Scholarship)
Carrie Frye, District IV (US Forum Liaison)



News from Legislative Committee!



Dr. Vivian Posey, Chair
vivposey@gmail.com

At the 2021 Fall Executive Board Meeting, the Legislative Committee's Breakout Session featured a Q & A with renowned Capitol Bureau investigative reporter Mary Ellen Klas. Ms. Klas has followed and reported on government and politics in the Florida state capitol for the *Tampa Bay Times* and the *Miami Herald* for 30 years. Her insight into the workings of the elected representatives of Florida have earned her many awards including being named a 2019 Murray Marder Nieman Fellow in Watchdog Journalism and receiving the Women of Distinction Award from the Girl Scouts of the Big Bend.

In addition to helping session participants understand the anticipated priorities for the 2022 legislative session in Tallahassee, Ms. Klas shared many helpful tips for becoming effective advocates on issues that are important to our DKG members. Following her presentation, participants in the audience were able to ask questions that were related to advocacy and communication with legislative representatives. Here are just a few of the key messages from her presentation:

- The best way to engage with an elected representative is to meet him/her on a person-to-person level.
- The current Florida legislature is "top down," and elected members are given talking points on the issues. These may not always represent their true beliefs on an issue.
- Redistricting will consume a major part of representatives' time during this session.
- As advocates, it is important to inform the elected

representatives of the concerns of their constituents, especially as this relates to education because it is a budget issue.

- Once elected representatives receive information from constituents, they will often relay this to the leadership who will take further action on an issue.
- Citizens should "use" the press to amplify their voice."

The Legislative Committee sponsored a virtual "Rally in Tally" event held in November of 2021 and plans an in-person visit to Tallahassee to meet legislators in January of 2022. Please contact **Dr. Vivian Posey** for more information regarding the upcoming "Rally" event.

About Our Legislative Presenter



Mary Ellen Klas

Mary Ellen Klas is the Florida Capitol bureau chief for the *Miami Herald* and the *Tampa Bay Times* where she covers government and politics and focuses on investigative and accountability reporting.

During the 2018-19 academic year, Mary Ellen was awarded a Nieman Fellowship to study at Harvard University and was named the 2019 Murrey Marder Nieman Fellow in Watchdog Journalism. She examined the relationship between declining journalism resources and corruption in state and local government. Her research continues into what happens to government integrity, ethical standards, transparency, and accountability when public affairs and watchdog reporting declines.

Among her many awards, Mary Ellen received the 2015 League of Women Voters Making Democracy Work Award for her reporting on the four-year redistricting fight. She was given the 2011 Women of Distinction Award from the Girls Scouts of the Big Bend. Other awards include Sunshine State Awards, the Alliance of Area Business Publications, and the Columbia University Helen Miller Malloch Scholarship.

Advocating for DKG Members: The Legislative Committee Meets with Florida Legislator

During the 2nd virtual "Rally in Tally" on Tuesday, November 30, 2021, the concerns of DKG members were presented to the Florida Legislature by the Florida State Organization Legislative Committee. A full day of interviews with members of both the House and Senate were scheduled, and eleven legislators were interviewed. DKG members, as well as members of several partnering organizations, joined throughout the day to hear these legislators discuss their plans for the 2022 legislative session and their responses to the four Issues of Concern of DKG members.

In addition to hearing from legislators, Rally participants were shown how to navigate the Florida House and Senate websites, locate their elected representatives, and track bills that have been proposed for the next session. Information was presented about the redistricting process that is currently underway, and participants were informed about how to access the redistricting website for information and to post comments.

Despite their busy schedules, the following legislators accepted the invitation from the Legislative Committee to participate in the Rally:



Senator Lorraine Ausley
Representative Robin Bartleman
Senator Lori Berman
Senator Lauren Book (legislative aide)
Representative Anna Eskamani
Representative Joy Goff-Marcil
Senator Shevrin Jones
Representative Amber Mariano
Representative Angie Nixon
Senator Linda Stewart
Representative Geraldine Thompson

The Legislative Committee thanks these legislators for their valuable time and attention to our concerns and recommendations!

Bylaws Buzz



Nancy Marmesh, Bylaws Chair
nmarmesh@aol.com

The Bylaws Committee is preparing a presentation for the upcoming district meetings. We'll be focusing on aligning Chapter Rules with the Florida State Bylaws. We are asking chapters to email a copy of your Chapter Rules to your Bylaws Representative for review. (See list below) You can also bring a copy of your Chapter Rules to the Bylaws Buzz breakout session at your district meeting and give them to **Nancy Marmesh**, Bylaws Chair, or your district's representative. It is important to update your Chapter Rules to reflect the changes made in all governing documents as they affect your chapter.

Nancy Marmesh (V) Chair
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Sandy Byars (I)
sbyars@hotmail.com

Kathy Raiford (II)
Kathynole1@comcast.net

Phylis Bolin (III)
Pbolin1@tampabay.rr.com

Pat Eckstein (IV)
pateckstein@yahoo.com

Sam McCartney-King (VI)
gammanuking@gmail.com

Terry Stanilonis (II) 1st Vice President
t1stan@bellsouth.net

Barbara Van Diepen (V) Consultant
Great78gram@gmail.com



Strength Through Diversity: Unique and Unified

**Edith Smith, Florida DKG State Organization President,
1993-1995**

Twenty-eight years ago the dynamic, ubiquitous, vivacious, and unique person who led the Florida DKG State Organization was **Edith “Edie” Smith**. She took leave from her position during her biennium to be available to, and represent, Florida members at all levels. Edie traveled more than 40,000 miles and visited 90+ chapters. Florida’s Teacher of the Year in 1985, Edie was a member of **Gamma Upsilon** and served that chapter twice as its presiding officer. Prior to becoming president, she served the state organization as recording secretary and second vice president. Edie was an undergraduate of Troy State University and received a master’s degree from the University of South Florida.

The Star Walk Project, Read Aloud - Literacy activities, Education First, mini leadership seminars for chapter presidents, changing from the Miccosukee Indian Project to the Native American project, and from the Hurricane Andrew Relief Committee to the Emergency Relief Committee were just a few of the emphases, or actions taken, during the 1993

– 1995 biennium. Edie was instrumental in shaking up the “old guard,” galvanizing the “young guard,” and causing all Florida DKG members to evaluate their membership and involvement.

Joining Edie as officers during this biennium were **Dr. Connie Bivens, Judith Mix, Jeanne Tanner, Merry Ann Schrage, Marjorie Cenower, Yvonne Rice, and Jane Lutz.**

Committee chairs included **Connie Bivens, Ellen Cohen, Elaine Hanna, Elsie Gross, Anne Templeton, Joan Lutton, Linda Lentin, Roxanne Berger, Ruth Pridgen, Carolyn Holland, Fern Cleary, Maureen McNutt, Georgianna Turner, Mary Ann Whitaker, Beverly Helms, Fran Baumgart, Pat Palmer, Theresa Stewart, Mary Rarig, Marla Thomas, Sue Ann Reisdorph, and Joanna Cocchiarella.**

Individuals who served as district directors were **Patricia Segrest, Linda Ellis, Irene Newsome, Sallie Shelton-Culver, Sally Talbert, and Marie Cutlip.**

In 1993, the Southeast Regional Conference was held in Mobile, Alabama, and Florida had a large delegation. The 1994 International Convention was held in Nashville. There were 109 Florida members who attended even with the “pricey” Gaylord Opryland site. International President, **Dr. Irene Murphy**, who was newly elected, appointed **Dr. Connie Bivens** as chair of the International Nominations Committee. **Georgianna Turner** and **Dr. Elsie Gross** were also appointed to international committees.

Many Florida members remember Edie’s Christmas letters replete with tales of her numerous sailing adventures with her husband, accompanied by loads of books and school supplies to distribute. Even though the beautiful, vivacious Edie is not the oldest, living, past state organization president, she is the elder, with exception of **Louise McMullian** and **Maxine Smith**, in terms of the date of the biennium. Many of those who served with Edie are no longer among us, but hopefully their names ignited a spark of recognition as you read them.

Articles on Florida’s DKG history, focusing on the state organization president, presents a “look back” for many who were active during those years, and an opportunity for younger members to learn of individuals who built fires by which they are now being warmed, and on whose shoulders they now stand. Thanks, Edie, for your exemplary leadership during 1993 -1995 and for the walk down memory lane. We hope to see you at a state meeting soon and wish you more beautiful travels as you continue your contributions to others.



Sharing Chapter Experiences

Alpha Chapter



On December 5, 2021, Alpha Chapter members held their annual holiday party in the most festively decorated home of **Kathy Raiford**! To celebrate the season, Alpha members wore their “ugly” holiday sweaters, assembled hot chocolate gift packets, decorated sweater cookies, enjoyed a potluck of scrumptious foods, exchanged gifts, and held a short business meeting. We were so honored to have **Carrie Frye** share words of wisdom, encouragement, and support to the chapter during the gathering.



As 2021 comes to a close, Alpha has much to celebrate with the induction of five new members and the election of officers for the next biennium. The ladies look forward to our January meeting at which we will be making final plans for the District II Meeting in February. Alpha chapter is ready and excited for the good things in store for 2022!

Alpha Beta Chapter

Alpha Beta Chapter had a flurry of activities, especially in the last quarter of the year. Our year began with a mixed bag of virtual and in-person activities. We transitioned from Zoom, to masked indoor gatherings while socially distanced, to indoor gatherings with masks optional.

Our Zoom meetings have been really well-planned and informative. During one of our Zoom meetings, members showcased their talents through demonstrations and displays -- cake baking by **Karen**

Goins, cookie decorations by **Linda Zeiler**, art by **Carmen Dugger**, and technology by **Mary Ann Rouse**. In another Zoom meeting, we had members present book talks. What a multi-talented outfit! We thoroughly enjoyed their professional presentations.

We have had social activities as well. **Linda Zeiler** hosted a Bunco Party with a pile of prizes! Members brought savory covered dishes to share. It was a first for many of us. The event was well-attended and a real feather in our cap, as most of our members paid their dues at that meeting.

Another fun event was Trivia Night at a local public golf course. Some of our gentleman friends were guests at this event. It was super entertaining! Thanks to **Rondia Leach** for organizing it for us!

We always look forward to our October meeting at the home of **Gigi Parker** where she hosts a Halloween Extravaganza. The decorations are simply amazing! Members come in costumes and bring yummy side dishes to accompany Gigi's best pasta dish. Now you would think that we don't get much accomplished, at this time, but au contraire, my friend. **Chapter President Pam Pierce** had a full agenda, which she delivered with efficacy and aplomb!

New member **Cristin Jordan** shared her story of eight years of volunteer experience in Haiti. The irony was that she volunteered at the school where we have made financial contributions for years, and the principal was a past member of our chapter. Her story was heart-rending! Gigi provided games to increase our DKG knowledge and provided the door prizes, DKG paraphernalia! We sat at two beautifully decorated tables to dine and catch up, leaving before the Witching Hour. It was a Thriller!

During the month of November, **Linda Zeiler** scheduled not one, not two, but-- three cookie decoration classes to accommodate the schedules of Alpha Beta members and our active teachers. How incredibly generous is that! Everyone who knows Linda, knows that she has a servant's heart.

In that vein, we are also extremely proud of member **Kathy Poe** who garnered a state grant for her project, "PossAbilities." A tea shop was set up to develop life skills for special needs children. Kathy delivered a passionate speech at her first appearance at Fall Conference. It was awe-inspiring! We look forward to visiting the PossAbilities Tea shop and seeing the youth in action in 2022. Finally, thanks to our members who make our chapter—FUNctional! all year!

Sharing Chapter Experiences

Beta Chi Chapter

Beta Chi chapter have happily been holding luncheon meetings at a restaurant. It has been a pleasure to meet in person once again. Beta Chi is focusing on supporting our actively teaching sisters. Our chapter has offered them a coupon to redeem when they have a project they wish to do in their classroom but they do not have the funds to see the project to fruition. When the sister redeems their coupon, members will provide the needed materials to complete the project. Beta Chi has also surprised the members who are currently teaching with a goodie bag to enjoy and share with a prospective member.

Our chapter has also held their annual auction to raise funds for a scholarship to be given to a college student interested in becoming an educator. The auction had a new online silent auction component this year. That way sisters who could not attend in person could still participate.

Beta Lambda Chapter



Beta Lambda Chapter's latest "Golden Girl" is **Van Holt**, pictured with **Beta Lambda President Elisa Spencer**. During 50 years as a DKG member, Van served as chapter president for two different terms and is a Legacy member. Her mother was a charter member and past president of **Beta Lambda**, too.

Members from **Beta Lambda Chapter** filled goodie bags for first year teachers in Escambia County. Pictured from left to right are **Martha Sanders, Elisa Spencer, Denise Harper, Van Holt, and Linda Thweatt**.



Delta Eta Chapter

Sounds of music rang out of the Windover Pavilion on Thursday, November 18, 2021, sponsored by Delta Eta. The "Melodies of Love" concert fundraiser was a benefit for "Lessons With Love," a non-profit to help African children sustain a better life through education in Malawi, Africa. We raised \$3,515.71!

The concert evening included three stages of continuous entertainment from 5:30-7:30 p.m., and a buffet of pizza and salad from local Genna Pizza Company.

Touched by the magnitude of "Lessons With Love" project goals, the time and talent of several professional bands were donated- Richard Schenk, Stay Tuned, Bittersweet, and The Eau Gallie High School Music Department had their Jazz Ensemble and an Octet of Saxophones delight the listening audience. Special thanks to our Sound Engineers Mike Avento and Mike Hance.

Delta Eta sisters worked feverishly to accommodate our great crowd and deserve a "hearty well done!" "Lessons With Love" volunteers contributed their energies selling 50/50 raffle tickets raising \$211, and the generous hearted winner contributed \$211 back to the project, totaling \$422.

"Lessons With Love" founder Nancy Donahue brought news to us from Malawi and shared progress that has been made and what the greatest needs are currently. Visit the website Lessonswithlove.org to see photos and descriptions updated regularly. Follow and like "Lessons With Love" on Facebook and receive regular updates. Envelopes were provided for donations.

What a great night for singing and making the lives of 2,800 children in a far off village in Malawi, a life of possibilities and hope. We humbly thank each of you for your overflowing cups of love.

Sharing Chapter Experiences

Gamma Delta Chapter

Gamma Delta held their first face to face meeting on August 31, 2021. It was wonderful to see everyone since we hadn't met in person since before COVID. Our chapter, along with Joyce Steven's family, established the **Joyce Steven's Memorial Scholarship Membership Chair Carolyn McGowan** passed out membership certificates and perfect attendance awards for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. She awarded our monthly Clothespin Award to **Janet Allison**. Members planned their upcoming committee meetings for 2021-2022. **President Kelly Kertz** encouraged members to sign up for the "Remind " app.

At our October 5th meeting, the Arts Committee, co-chaired by **Janet Allison** and **Joyce Crawford**, passed out baggies with materials and directions to make Christmas gift card holders for Kid's Central. A fun time was had by all! Our chapter generously donates gift cards to teens for Christmas at Kid's Central. Beautiful fall-themed silk flower arrangements were raffled off with the proceeds going to our general scholarship fund. Our monthly Clothespin Award was given to **Betty Waldrop**. We adopted a kindergarten & fourth grade teacher at Astatula Elementary for the school year. Please bring goodies for these teachers to our meetings.

On November 1st, the Professional Growth Committee, co-chaired by **Carol Hass** and **Jennifer Lykins**, had our very own **Carolyn McGowan** present **Everyone Needs a Medical Journal**. **Dawn Boyd** also shared her son Ryan's notebook after he experienced a Traumatic Brain Injury. **Carol Hass** donated beautiful mums that were raffled off, and the proceeds went to our general scholarship fund. Our November Clothespin Award was awarded to **Carol Hass**, and **Anna Rose Pauley** was the recipient of the December Clothespin Award.

Diana Brown, District IV Representative on the Florida DKG State Organization Legislative Committee, reported on the virtual "Rally in Tally" held November 30, 2021, from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.. She reviewed their 4 issues of concern for advocacy during 2021-2022:

1. Accountability for all schools that receive public funds
2. Reinstatement of pension plan as an incentive for teacher recruitment and retention

3. Mental health services for staff and students. Expand allocation.

4. Keeping schools safe for students, teachers and staff during a pandemic. This issue is currently being tweaked.

Our chapter members enjoyed our annual Christmas gathering which was held on December 7th at the garden and home of **Susan Gant**. This year's theme was "Christmas under the Stars." Stay tuned for our next article come spring.

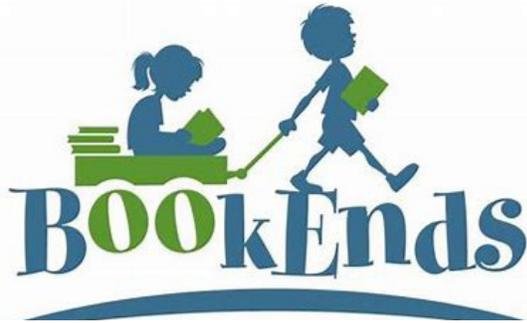
Gamma Nu Chapter

We all know that communication is key in the sustainability and support of our chapters. Gamma Nu Chapter presented a session on that topic at the State Fall Workshop. As we presented at our session, we used both "high tech" and "low tech" communication tools.

We continue to use these tools to sustain and support our chapter. Our first two chapter meetings offered members the option to attend in person or via Zoom. The first meeting was a presentation by a local wildlife center. Both in-person and Zoom attendees were able to enjoy the presentation and see the owl and kestrel that were brought by the center as their educational ambassadors. We were also able to have Zoom participants be active contributors in chapter business.



Our second chapter meeting enabled chapter members to hear and participate in a discussion with a local Charlotte County School Board member and the president of the Charlotte County Florida Education Association about current legislative priorities and challenges. Zoom was again offered, so members would have a choice of how they wanted to take part in this meeting. Gamma Nu will continue to use a variety of communication tools as we approach planning for fundraising, social events, and chapter business. We know it's all about communication to sustain and support our chapter.



Winston Loves Turtles
by Dee Mountcastle
dmountcast@yahoo.com

Dee Mountcastle, member of **Gamma Gamma Chapter** in Saint Augustine, recently was presented with her third gold medal as an author of children's literature by Florida Authors and Publishers Association. The award was earned for her latest book, **Winston Loves Turtles**, published in December of 2020 for children ages 8-12.

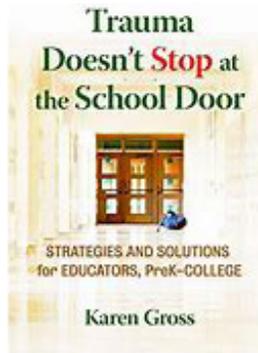


Winston is a new student in his class. Because of health issues, he is bookish and loves to read, especially about turtles. Some of his classmates bully him. He becomes a Marine Turtle Patrol Volunteer, and his job is to watch a certain turtle egg nest on St. Augustine Beach. His teacher ends a unit on sea turtles with a field trip to the beach. The class sees a great final lesson as the baby turtles make their way to the sea, and Winston becomes a class hero.

Dee Mountcastle is a retired educator from eastern Long Island. After retiring from teaching elementary school, she taught graduate students in Touro College's master's program in Childhood Education and Special Education. Dee has always enjoyed writing stories. She is an advocate for the protection of wild animals. Growing up near Great South Bay, she is an experienced sailor, and loves to swim, sail, fish, and snorkel. Her love of the natural interaction of wildlife in those coastal waters led her to write about Florida's protected species.

Living in St. Augustine with her husband and their very active whippet, Dee continues to write stories and poems. The Mountcastles have two sons and three grandchildren who love listening to her many stories. Find background information and lesson plans for both teachers and parents at www.mountcastlebooks.com.

DKG International Announces Educators Book Award Winner



Have you, your students, or family members experienced trauma during the last weeks, month, or year? If so, this book may help you gain a long-range perspective of the causes and possible solutions to traumatic stress. **Trauma Doesn't Stop at the School Door: Strategies and Solutions for Educators: Pre-K—College** by Dr. Karen Gross provides background information about how trauma may influence stress.

That trauma might be a macro-event such as 9/11, a school shooting, COVID-19, a personal incident such as Adverse Childhood Experiences, or the death of a family member or friend. Dr. Gross shows how trauma can be cumulative, adding onto previous incidents, or acting as a boomerang in causing one event to trigger past memory experiences.

This book explores how our schools, at all grade levels, have been remiss in addressing trauma. The author encourages new approaches and responses to traumatic incidents. She asks us to examine our instructional strategies, classroom designs, calendar and schedule use, classroom management strategies, behavior management plans, and preparation of future teachers. She discusses creating welcoming, safe, engaging environments for students of all ages.

This well-researched book, which combines scholarship and practicality, provides ways to assess trauma and suggests strategies to reduce the impact and its repercussions. The author provides examples of her own teaching experiences, as well as that of others. She gives useful suggestions, resources, and recommendations for creating a trauma-sensitive and stress-responsive school. If you wish to help yourself and your students (children or grandchildren) gain a positive mental health perspective and garner resilience as a life attitude, this book is for you!

THE ARTS



Featured Artist from Florida's Betty Thornton Arts & Crafts Gallery:



Nancy Pierce Beta Chi Chapter District IV

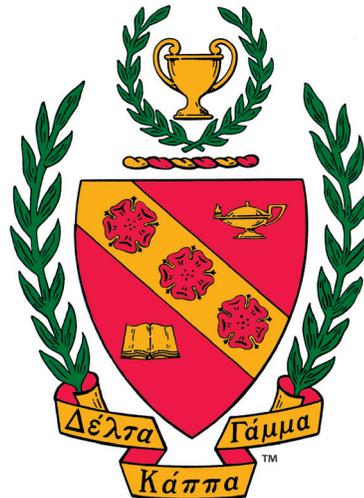
npierce0022@yahoo.com

Nancy Pierce grew up in Central Florida and attended Orange County Schools. Because she enjoyed working with children and wanted to guide and encourage them, she became a teacher. After earning her Bachelors in Education from the University of Florida, she was hired as a third grade teacher in Seminole County Public Schools. Her passion has always been literature; therefore, after twelve years in the classroom she decided to return to school and earned her Masters in Instructional Media at the University of Central Florida. Upon completion, she was hired as a Media Specialist and Educational Technology Facilitator.



During her 27 years in the Beta Chi Chapter, she served on numerous chapter committees. Through her opportunity to serve as mentor to teachers, media specialists, and Educational Technology Facilitators, she has encouraged many teachers to become members of Beta Chi Chapter.

Her passion for designing jewelry began when she and a friend attended a beginners' class at a bead shop in 2000. "I was hooked immediately!" Nancy said. Since that time, she has created many necklaces, bracelets, and earrings using an assortment of gemstones and Swarovski crystals. She visits numerous jewelry websites and bead shops to find the latest designs and beads available.



Most of the jewelry is given to family and friends as gifts or donated to Beta Chi for the chapter holiday auction. Having her DKG sisters purchase items that originated with her imagination and designed with her hands is most rewarding.

Looking for a specific color or design for yourself or someone special? Let Nancy know!

DKG Gallery of Fine Arts

DKG International Arts and Humanities



Beth's two-dimensional art 'Dottie's Geraniums' and 'Carol's Farm' have also been accepted into the DKG Fine Arts Gallery.

On October 15, 2021, **Kathy Yarbrough** and **Beth Warner** received a congratulatory email announcing that the DKG International Arts and Humanities Jury thanks them for being among the DKG Gallery of Fine Arts entrants of the September 15 – August 15, 2021, submission period.

Kathy's two-dimensional art category 'Flamingos' and 'Gladiolus' were accepted into the DKG Fine Arts Gallery.



Pink Flamingos

The unveiling of the new DKG Fine Arts Gallery occurred mid-November on the DKG website. Kathy and Beth's work will be displayed in the gallery for six months, after which it will be archived for two years. Members are encouraged to submit additional works during the next submission period from January 15 – February 15, 2022.



Pink Gladiolus
Mu State Florida

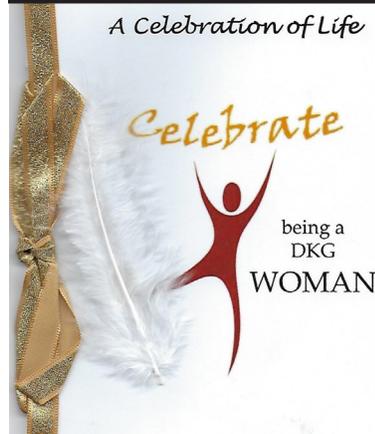
Kathy Yarbrough



DKG International has had great interest in the Art Gallery, and it's considered to be an especially important venture for the Society. The DKG International Arts & Humanities Jury consists of Stacey Chicoine, Chair, in addition to members **Carol Ann Casey** from Florida, Roxanne Lagarde, and Irene Maskaly.



Congratulations,
Kathy and Beth,
on your accomplishments!



**Audrey Anne Blobaum
Gamma Lambda
District V
July 24, 2021
Wellington, FL**



Audrey Anne Blobaum, age 87, of Wellington, Florida, passed away on July 24, 2021. She was born on August 20, 1933, in Compton, Illinois. In 1951, Audrey graduated from Paw Paw High School, Paw Paw, Illinois.

She went on to study Home Economics and Education at Northern Illinois University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1965 and a Master of Science degree in 1970. One summer she enjoyed studying fashion merchandising and design in Paris.

Audrey met Dana Charles Blobaum in 1974, and they were married on June 8, 1975, in Davis Junction, Illinois. Together they came into the marriage with nine

children and added one more in 1976.

Audrey worked as an educator for 29 years. She began her career as a fifth grade teacher in Sandwich, Illinois. Ms. Blobaum was then given her dream job teaching Home Economics at Byron High School for the remaining 28 years. While a faculty advisor for Future Homemakers of America, she had a student from her school's chapter serve as a state officer. Audrey retired in 1994 and remained involved in education as a substitute teacher in both Illinois and Florida where she spent her winters. Ms. Blobaum supervised more than 10 student teachers during their field experience in Home Economics Education for Northern Illinois University.

Audrey was a founding initiate to her DKG chapter in Illinois in 1975. She was a leader both locally and at the state level for DKG in Illinois and Florida. Locally, she was an active member in the Gamma Lambda Chapter serving as secretary, 2nd vice-president and 1st vice-president.

She proudly served her community. She taught through the Literacy Council working with adults to learn to read, so they could help their children with homework. She traveled to Haiti to help mothers with small children who didn't have access to schools.

Audrey had many passions and hobbies which included sewing, reading, traveling, quilting, teaching anything and everything, supporting the arts, being a wine connoisseur, prayer partner, loving friend, ardent supporter, gracious hostess, tireless servant of God, and adult literacy mentor.

Visitation was at Tillman Funeral Home in West Palm Beach, funeral at All Saints Lutheran Church, and interment at Byron Cemetery.

**Eileen Gutzman
Beta Omega Chapter
District III
September 10, 2021
Seminole, Florida**



On September 10, 2021, Eileen Pearl Will Kimball Gutzman Low passed away at age 95 in Seminole, Florida. She died from complications resulting from a COVID-19 breakthrough infection. Eileen was born on June 19, 1926, in New Leipzig, North Dakota.

Eileen graduated with a Bachelor's Degree from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. In 1958, she and her first husband relocated to Florida. She earned a Master's Degree from the University of Florida in 1964. Eileen was a teacher, counselor, and Dean of Girls. She retired from Osceola High School in Pinellas County Schools with 28 years of experience.

Eileen joined DKG on January 1, 1973, as a Charter Member of Beta Omega Chapter. She remained an active member throughout the years attending all chapter meetings.

Eileen was a woman of great faith and her life and actions reflected her love of the Father and Christian principles. She was loved and cherished by many people, includ-

ing her sister Carol and former husbands. She enjoyed ballroom dancing and traveling, especially to exotic locations.

At her time of death, she held residence at Freedom Square in Seminole and a condo on Treasure Island. Memorial donations may be made to Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd of which she was a charter member, 10891 102nd Ave N, Seminole, FL 33778.

Dr. Betty Napier Holloway
Delta Mu Chapter
District I
March 15, 2021
Wewahitchka, Florida



Betty Holloway, age 94, passed away on March 15, 2021. She was born on June 8, 1926, to Samuel J. Napier and Alma Strahan Napier in Collins, Covington County, Mississippi. She had seven siblings. In 2004, her spouse Harrell Edwin Holloway predeceased her in death.

Betty was a much-loved teacher for over 50 years. She was inducted into DKG in January of 1967 and served on many different committees in Delta Mu Chapter.

Dr. Barbara Koesy
Beta Zeta Chapter
District V
November 1, 2021
Miami, Florida

Barbara Ann Koesy, age 86, a native of Miami passed away on November 1, 2021. She was born



the youngest of seven siblings on January 11, 1935. Barbara was a graduate of Miami High in 1953 and the University of Miami with a B.S. in Education and a Masters of Political Science. Barbara was a flight attendant for Eastern Airlines for 30+ years and taught for Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Dr. Koesy was a caring and devoted educator.

In 2009, she joined the **Beta Zeta Chapter** of DKG and served as dedicated parliamentarian. In addition to being active in DKG, Barbara was a member of the Miami High Alumni Association and the Eastern Airlines Silverliners. She was a dedicated Poll Worker and attended Central Christian Church in Coral Gables where she sang in the choir.

Visitation took place on November 6th, at the Van Orsdel Funeral Home's Coral Gables Chapel and burial followed at Graceland Park North.

Mary Margaret (Mimi) McAdoo
Gamma Upsilon Chapter
District VI
June 17, 2021
Sarasota, Florida

Mary Margaret "Mimi" McAdoo passed away on June 17, 2021. Born on February 19, 1932, in Toledo, Ohio. A graduate of Lawrence University, her first job

was as caseworker and counselor for the Family Court Center and Lucas County Child Welfare Board in Toledo. Her work there set her on the path to community involvement that continued throughout her life.

In 1968, she reluctantly moved with her husband and children to Sarasota. While proud of her Midwestern roots, she developed a deep and abiding love for "the real Florida." She visited Myakka River State Park regularly, and always when the iris were in bloom. She often went out of her way to drive on roads that would take her through the arching canopy of live oak trees draped with Spanish moss.

Mary Margaret was involved in a number of organizations in Sarasota, and she held leadership roles in many, including the Women's Resource Center, the Sarasota Child Development Board, Sarasota Community Services Forum, Salvation Army, the Sarasota Coalition for the Homeless, Community Housing Corporation, and the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

She was elected to the Sarasota County School Board five times, serving consecutive four-year terms from 1970-1990, acted as Vice Chair three times, and twice as Chairman. In 1982, she became an honorary member of Gamma Upsilon Chapter of DKG.



She was a voracious reader and loved to discuss politics and current events. Fiercely independent

and strong spirited, she enjoyed long road trips and explorations down blue highways. She was also very brave as she struggled to maintain her active lifestyle while facing the gradual loss of her vision—eventually becoming legally blind due to macular degeneration. She was fortunate to have a wide circle of supportive friends and enduring friendships, and in quieter moments, the purr of a beloved cat on her lap.

Her family asks anyone wishing to make a contribution in her memory to kindly consider The BrightFocus Foundation in support of research into the causes, potential prevention strategies and treatments of macular degeneration.

As a member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), Mimi was a member of Sarasota Monthly Meeting serving as clerk and trustee. She was also a member and trustee of the Southeastern Yearly Meeting. A celebration of her life was held on July 10 at the Sarasota Friends Meetinghouse.

**Ruth Benton Mulholland
Kappa Chapter
District III
October 5, 2021
Tampa, Florida**



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Kappa Chapter member and sister Ruth Benton Mulholland, age 90, on October 5, 2021. She was born, in Palmetto, Florida, on January 9, 1931, grew up in the Dover

and Plant City areas, and settled in Tampa, Florida. In 1948, Ruth graduated from Turkey Creek High School, and she attended Hillsborough Community College during the 1980s.

She was a member of Christ Fellowship Church (formerly Spencer Memorial Baptist and Tampa Baptist Church), and taught Sunday school for many years. She worked fervently as leader of the Watchman Prayer Wall Ministry.

Ruth was passionately involved in children's issues. She served as President of the Hillsborough County Council of the Parent Teacher Association from 1969-1970 and was later appointed as State Legislative Chairman for the PTA.

Ruth was a member of the Florida Trail Association where she enjoyed hiking and trail building with her family. Ruth was a committed long-distance runner and competed in "The Race of The Americas" in Miami, on her 50th Birthday! From 1976-1980, Ruth served as Executive Director of SERVE-School Enrichment Resource Volunteers in Education.

She served as Exploring Executive of the Gulf Ridge Council, Boy Scouts of America from 1981 until well into the 1990s, where she worked diligently and very successfully in the community and school systems, to develop "Career Posts" that allowed students from ages 14-21 to explore careers to which they aspired. Ruth earned and received the Vigil Honor Member Order of the Arrow and was the first female to receive this honor from the Gulf Ridge Council Boy Scouts of America. In March of 2010 she received "The Good Shepherd Emblem Silver Award" in cooperation with Tampa Baptist Church, and the Association of Baptists for Scouting, for distin-

guished service leading toward the spiritual, physical, mental, and moral development of youth. Ruth was an Honorary Member of Delta Kappa Gamma since 1978, a Life Member of Soroptimist International, and a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians.

While always involved at the community level, Ruth also took a keen interest in national issues and politics. She was a member of the National Republican Committee. She was a passionate member of The Jerusalem prayer team led by Michael D. Evans. Ruth was an avid gardener and loved growing beautiful flowers. She was loved by many, and made an impact on many more – and she will be missed by all who knew her.

**Irma Norman
Beta Omega Chapter
District III
August 14, 2021
Seminole, Florida**



Irma Lee Packard Norman, age 95, passed away on August 14, 2021, at her daughter's home in Seminole, Florida. As a native Floridian, Irma was born in Cocoa, Florida.

While a student at Florida Southern College, she met Edward Norman, whose job as a Methodist Minister would take them

throughout the state. They married in 1947. Other than a brief time in Iowa while Ed attended Seminary, they lived in and were loved by many Florida communities including Bowling Green and Tarpon Springs.

In Tarpon Springs, Irma also began her career as a schoolteacher and continued teaching after moves to Titusville in 1961 and Bradenton in 1968. In 1972, Ed and Irma moved to Tallahassee where she focused on ministerial support. It was typical for her to host professors and students from Florida State, missionaries from around the world and members of state government at her table.

In 1976, they moved to St. Petersburg where they spent the last years of their ministry serving the Pasadena Community Church. In 1987, they retired to Tarpon Springs. In 1971, Irma joined DKG as a charter member of Beta Omega Chapter and served as parliamentarian for 12 years and chapter president from 1980-1982. At the state level, Irma volunteered on the Nominations, Research, Program, and Leadership Committees. She was recognized by joining the Mu State Hall of Fame and in 2013 receiving the Sara G. Ferguson Achievement Award.

Irma also enjoyed walking in 5k competitions, often coming in first for her age group. She could also be found in the bleachers supporting her grandchildren, attending her beloved Florida Orchestra, or greeting neighbors from her porch as they passed. Whether baking her famous sheet cake or making sure people had rides to doctors and the grocery store, Irma had a true heart of service.

Dr. Dixie Joan Slater
Beta Chi Chapter
District IV
July 25, 2021
Altmonte Springs, FL



Dr. Dixie Joan Slater passed away on July 25, 2021, at Advent Health Hospice in Altmonte Springs. She was born in Mount Vernon, Ohio, on January 13, 1942. Dixie graduated from Mount Vernon High School in 1960 and pursued her lifelong passion to teach young children. In 1964, she earned a B.S. in Education from Bowling Green State University.

After teaching the early elementary years in both Upper Arlington and Wooster, Ohio, Dixie moved to Rock Hill, South Carolina, where she continued teaching and pursued a Master's Degree in Education from Winthrop College. Moving to Columbia, South Carolina, she continued to teach early childhood students.

After moving to Altamonte Springs, Dixie expanded her influence on young students by teaching the gifted and talented in Seminole County Schools. Ultimately, she accepted a position as a Guidance Counselor. She always viewed her young charges as her own children.

In March of 1987, Dixie joined DKG and served on all chapter committees. During her membership years, she chaired the

Hospitality Committee for several biennia and provided transportation for members unable to drive to DKG functions. She graciously and generously expressed concern for all members needs, attended chapter, district, and state meetings faithfully, and several regional and international meetings. She was very supportive of DKG activities, projects, and initiatives, and she will be sorely missed.

After retiring in 2008, Dixie continued to connect with "her kids" through visits to the schools where she used her puppets to tell stories and entertain the children. Dixie was buried in Mount Vernon, Ohio.

Margie M. Walker
Beta Pi Chapter
District II
August 14, 2021
Fleming Island, FL



Margie M. Walker passed away on August 14, 2021. She was employed by the Duval County Schools from 1965-1994 as a guidance counselor at all levels. She was also an adjunct professor at Jacksonville University.

Margie was one of the first initiates in the newly formed Beta Phi Chapter of DKG on January 1, 1969. She was a loyal chapter member attending every meeting. Margie served as Beta Phi Chapter President from 1972-1974, attending all district meeting and some state meetings. In 2019, she was awarded her 50 year membership certificate.

Florida Rays

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

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



Florida State Organization's District Meetings

District I	January 22, 2022	Port St. Joe Elementary
District II	February 5, 2022	Mandarin Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville
District III	March 5, 2022	Bayside Church Safety Harbor
District IV	April 2, 2022	First United Methodist Church, Clermont
District V	February 26, 2022	First Baptist Church of Fort Lauderdale
District VI	March 19, 2022	Carlisle Inn, Sarasota



Information Sources

DKG Florida Website
www.dkgmustateflorida.weebly.com

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

DKG Florida on Twitter
 @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

Application for FL DKG Educational Foundation's Educational Grants & Professional Development Awards
 Due February 1, 2022

Delta Kappa Gamma International's Arts & Humanities Submission for Spring Gallery
 Due February 15, 2022

FL DKG Scholarship Application
 Due February 25, 2022

Myra Santos World Fellowship Award Application for Chapter Recognition
 Due March 1, 2022

DKG International Convention
 July 12 -16, 2022
 Sheraton New Orleans, Louisiana

Florida State Organization's Fall Executive Board Meeting & Workshops
 September 23-24, 2022
 Orlando Marriott Lake Mary