

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

Alpha Kappa - Florida

Mission Statement

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

Newsletter April/May 2023

Prepared by Connie Lewis

[Chapter Website](#)



Blasting off a New Year in Alpha Kappa!

President's Message – Monica Hayes

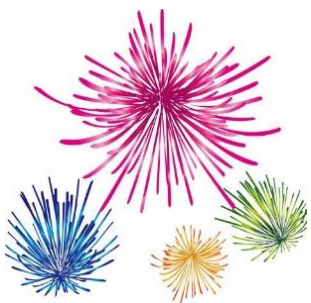
Dear Sisters,

The other day I realized that I'm coming to the end of my first year as your president. Let me begin by saying thank you to those of you who have shepherded me so diligently and lovingly throughout this year.

It has been busy, and I must say I am proud of what we have accomplished together. The book drives were successful; we had wonderful visits, both virtual and in person, with the scholars at the Lundquist House. We made a good contribution to World Fellowship and lots more. The wonderful Connie Lewis makes sure that information and beautiful pictures are in each Newsletter to ensure you are up to speed on all the activities.

Speaking of activities, we are reaching out to Sisters we haven't seen or heard from in a while, just to be certain everyone is doing well and not in need of assistance. We have lots of projects and welcome new initiatives. Our membership totals sixty-nine!!! We'd love to see more of you at meetings and events. We have slowly transitioned back to face to face for most things.

Speaking of not missing anything, have you heard the wonderful news? Our very own Rhonda Work is now a member of the Delta Kappa Gamma, Florida State 2023 Hall of Fame. Rhonda has been a faithful and wonderful key woman educator and leader in Alpha Kappa for 62 years!!!! Brava Sister Rhonda! Brava! Well deserved. I know I can safely say we are all enormously proud of you.



Looking forward - Our executive board has been hard at work thinking, planning, and hopefully responding to your interests and needs. In the fall, we will provide a calendar of events so you will know when meetings and other events will take place. Special thanks to Ninamarie Sappupo, our Educational Excellence representative who is working diligently on that committee and with others to bring us interesting and informative presentations. As noted in a previous email, we are working to develop a more efficient email address system so that information from us is more prominent, and easier for you to notice. Kudos to Nancy Rosenbaum for her efforts on this project.

I am excited about the coming year and the wonderful work we will do together. Remember, Delta Kapp Gamma is about educational leaders. Look among your colleagues and friends in education, active or retired, exceptional female educators, leaders who can help to enrich our efforts, and inform our thinking.

On a personal note, I'd like to wish a heartfelt thank you and farewell to Dr. Genae Crump. Dr. Crump and her family will be moving to Texas. Dr. Crump has made quite a name for herself in the K-12 world as well as in the world of HBCU sororities.



Rhonda Work – DKG Florida Hall of Fame 2023

From: Marlisa Santos, Ph.D.

On behalf of the DKG Florida State Awards Committee, it is with great pleasure that I inform you that you have been voted into the 2023 Hall of Fame. Congratulations on receiving this honor for your outstanding service!



About Rhonda: After completing her B.S. degree in speech-pathology at Northwestern University, Rhonda moved to Broward County, Florida to work in the public school system. In 1961, she was invited to become a charter member of Alpha Pi chapter. Little did she know at that time what paths she would travel. In Alpha Pi, she served in several capacities and was elected president. During that time, she received a sabbatical to finish my M.A. in communication disorders at the University of Florida. A move to Tallahassee in 1975 to work at the Florida Department of Education offered the opportunity to transfer to Alpha Kappa chapter where she served in several roles before becoming president in 1984. She completed her Ph.D. in educational leadership from Florida State University while working and continuing her activities with Alpha Kappa. In 2000, she accepted the role of chapter treasurer and have held that position to this day. In addition to chapter activities, she is financial manager for the Big Bend Coordinating Council and has been, at the request of four different district directors, treasurer for District 1. During Dr. Nancy Henning's Florida State Presidency, Rhonda was registrar for the fall meetings and state convention. During her career and in retirement, she has received numerous awards and honors, including the Distinguished Alumni Award from Florida State University and the Silver Star Award from the Tallahassee Senior Center in recognition of her many volunteer activities in the community. She treasures all of these awards, but none more than this honor from Florida State DKG. Because of all the opportunities in Delta Kappa Gamma, she has met so many wonderful key women educators and has made life-long friends. She states "It has been and continues to be a privilege to serve."

Congratulations! Alpha Kappa Is Proud of You!

Don't Miss It!

We have a special guest speaker

at our April 27th meeting.

We hope to see you there!

Delta Kappa Gamma- Alpha Kappa

PERSONAL SAFETY & SELF DEFENSE



Speaker:

LIEUTENANT MARIA MERCURIO

Tallahassee Police Department
RAD Coordinator

THURSDAY, 27 APRIL
ANNOUNCEMENTS 5:30PM
PROGRAM 6:00-7:00PM

LEON COUNTY LIBRARY
NORTHEAST BRANCH
5513 THOMASVILLE RD

Alpha Kappa Projects – You Can Help!

Hope Community of Tallahassee – Nikki Abels

A reminder that we are still collecting books for our book drives. We will be concentrating our efforts on Hope Community of Tallahassee. The organization serves families, children, and adults (essentially homeless veterans) who are experiencing homelessness in our area. They can use books from pre-school to adults. New and used materials are accepted. You can bring your donations to any of our meetings. You may also contact me to make arrangements for me to pick them up. Thank you for your continued interest and generosity. If you have any questions, please contact Nikki Abels at nikkiabels@gmail.com.

.Supplies for AK Educators – Stacy Thompson



Are you a current teacher in need of supplies?

Start thinking of what you need now! Alpha Kappa supports teachers.

Coming soon - a call for teachers to apply and ask for money for classroom supplies. If you are granted money, you may be asked to share at the fall meeting what amazing things you are doing in your classroom.

Stacy Thompson received an award in 2022 to purchase glass paint to create a stained-glass window entering her school's media center. If you are interested, please let Stacy know what you need at mrsstacyleethompson@gmail.com

Supplies for AK Educators - members submit their supply needs list on Amazon. Please help support our AK teachers as they begin this new year. The list is linked and can be found on the [AK Facebook page](#).

DKG Hurricane Ian Classroom Supply Collection - Nancy Rosenbaum

Englewood Elementary School in Englewood, Florida was damaged during Hurricane Ian. AK members reached out with enthusiasm toward making donations of school supplies and monetary contributions. The chapter raised over \$200! Additionally, other chapters in the BBCC were offered the opportunity to help and contributed supplies as well. There were so many supplies that items had to be taken to Englewood in two loads, one in December and another in February. The President of the PTA started a Teacher Supply Closet with these supplies so that teachers can obtain what they need when they need it. They have been so thankful to have our support! This project is suspended until further need. Please contact Nancy Rosenbaum at nancykrosenbaum@yahoo.com for further information.

The Second Harvest of the Big Bend "Back Pack" program (3rd year) provides 1,200 bags of nutritious food to food insecure students every week. Donations grow their ability to feed more students this school year. Without this important program, students may go hungry over the weekend and return to school distracted and struggle to reach their full potential. Since 2010, the Backpack Program has provided more than 1,000 bags of food weekly to children in the Big Bend Area. In Leon County alone, over 30 percent of our children in Tallahassee are food insecure. Funds from our chapter budget are contributed to this program.

World Fellowship - DKG promotes professional and personal growth of its members and excellence in education. The World Fellowship Fund was established to provide opportunities for women from foreign countries to pursue graduate studies in Canada and the United States. We collect coins at each meeting to give to World Fellowship. Last year we gave \$295.00. Thank you, Alpha Kappa members!



Fun and Fellowship on **St. Patrick's Day** over breakfast foods at Panera Bread. Thank you, Gale Workman for arranging this gathering. We had such a wonderful time visiting with each other.



Early Learning Coalition Tour - February 16, 2023 – Thank you to the staff at ELC for the wonderful tour and information provided about their programs. We have enjoyed supporting your books program for children.



FSU Southern Scholarship Foundation House, the Lundquist house. In past years, members of the chapter would meet at the house with the residents, bring meals to them and enjoy getting to know them face-to-face. Recently some of the chapter members met with the ladies via Zoom in a "getting-to-know-you" session. In addition to meals, the chapter provides supplies to "pack their pantry" and other items the ladies have on their wish list. They refer to AK members as their "House Champions". Please collect and send supplies and items to stock the pantry. They refer to AK members as their "House Champions". [Lundquist House Wish List](#) Please sign up to send supplies and items to stock the pantry.



At our last meeting with the ladies of the Lundquist house, Connie Lewis talked to them about who Delta Kappa Gamma was and why we have such an interest in supporting them as they work toward their educational goals. Thank you to Felecia Jordan Jackson for helping with the arrangements. We also enjoyed good food thanks to the AK members who brought "goodies".



Thanks to Susan Vinson for the pictures taken.



Chapter Calendar of Events 2023

- April 27, 2023, 5:30 p.m. Lieutenant Maria Mercurio, Tallahassee Police Department Personal, Safety/Self Defense presentation, Northeast Branch Library, 5513 Thomasville Road
- April 2023 Award & Grant Recipients notified
- April 28-30, 2023 Florida DKG Biennial Convention, Lake Mary Marriott
- May 13, 2023, 11am - 1pm - BBCC Founder's Day, St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Registration \$15 per person, make checks to: Delta Kappa Gamma, mail checks to Rhonda Work, 3510 Lakeshore Dr., Tallahassee, FL 3212 - **Registration Deadline: May 5**
- July, 2023 Summer Luncheon, TBA
- September 10, 2023, 1-3 p.m. Induction, St. Stephen Lutheran Church
- Saturday, January 20, 2024 - District I Meeting in Tallahassee FL at Trinity United Methodist Church

Get FIRED UP about your Alpha Kappa membership! Another year is beginning. . .

We begin 2023-2024 dues collection for the Delta Kappa Gamma Society in April. Active dues are \$85 and Reserve dues are \$35. Reserve dues are available only to members who are unable to participate in the activities of the chapter due to physical disability or geographic location.

Currently, Rhonda Work is working with Envision Credit Union to establish a payment option based on something like Pay Pal or Zelle. She should have that information within a week or so.

We offer a payment plan for active members only as follows:

- Three payments (April, May, June) of \$28.33 each
- Two payments (any two of the three months) of \$42.50 each
- One payment of \$85

Deadline for dues payment is June 30, 2023, but your early payment will be greatly appreciated. Make checks payable to **AK Delta Kappa Gamma** and mail to

Rhonda Work, Treasurer
3510 Lakeshore Dr
Tallahassee, FL 3212

Rhonda will notify our chapter members once she has made arrangements with Envision. If you have any questions, feel free to contact her at rhondawork@comcast.net or 850-443-1476.

