

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 February-March 2024, Prepared by Connie Lewis

Website: <http://www.deltakappagamma.org/FL- alphakappa/>

Alpha Kappa Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/DKGFLAlphaKappa/>

(This issue of the newsletter is devoted to the District I Meeting)

Congratulations! Monica is our new District I Director!

President's Message – Monica Hayes

Happy New Year Again!

The District 1 meeting was a major event. As you can see from the pictures and captions Connie's provided, our chapter was well represented. I am grateful for and proud of our chapter. Thank you to all who were able to attend.

The outcome of the election for District 1 Director was both humbling and exciting. I've reviewed the job description and so I concretely know what I'm in for, but as you well know, words on paper are just that. I am excited about the challenges and the opportunities. I was asked what it will mean for our chapter. I don't yet know for certain. I do know that member support and cooperation, candor and input will go a long way to ensuring the two years will have us modeling the ideals enshrined in the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Mission Statement.

As so ably stated by our national president, we must recruit and train critical women educators and "We must also bridge the generational divide and transition to an electronic format while accommodating long time members."

There's time between now and July 1. I've got my thinking cap on. Let me know if you'd care to join me for some discussions and brainstorming. Hugs to you all. Monica



Terry Stanilonis – Florida DKG President (Page 3 FLORIDA RAYS Winter 2023-2024)

The success of the Florida State Organization (FSO) depends on the commitment and loyalty of its members, which can only be achieved through dedication and determination. As we move forward with technological advancements, it is essential to continuously update our protocols, tools, and training to recruit critical women educators successfully. We must also bridge the generational divide and transition to an electronic format while accommodating long-time members.

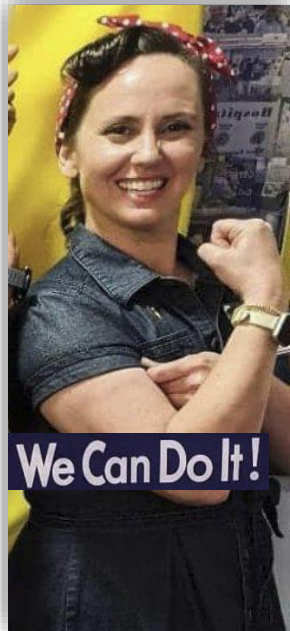
Our goal is to become a competitive organization that upholds the mission and vision of DKG and supports women educators in today's society. By doing so, we can ensure that the legacy of the Florida State Organization makes a difference for future educators. We aim to inspire members to appreciate the uniqueness of DKG and the power this organization embodies to change one's life for the better.

Our biennium theme, "Florida DKG Actively Engaging in Advocacy" highlights the importance of advocacy in supporting our DKG purposes. Do you have a topic you would like to share that is relate to the Purposes of DKG, do not hesitate to send in your application. Save your place to present at our fall conference, September 20-23, 2024 now.

For questions contact Nancy Bentz, email dkgkeywomeneducators@gmail.com The application is in the previous Florida Rays that each of you received. If you need the link, please contact me at lewisc47@comcast.net

Sarah Watters – District I Director – State of Florida

Theme of District I Meeting: We Can Do It!



Wow! What a District I Meeting she prepared for her sisters in our district. There were many representatives from all parts of Florida who joined us. Our current state president as well as three Past State Presidents, Carrie Frye, Dr. Nancy Hennings, and Ann Lumsden, attended. Sarah is a member of Alpha Lambda in Tallahassee and a BBCC sister. What a wonderful job she and her team of ladies did organizing the District I Meeting. The place was beautifully arranged with the baskets for the raffle. Lovely decorations adorned the tables for breakfast and lunch. Before the meeting officially started, members had time to mingle, to greet sisters they knew but had not seen in a while, and to make new friends

(Note: We think Sarah has a twin.)

The inspiring agenda was well done and administrated. **It was fun too!** Sisters' participation was encouraged. *And they did. And they did.* The theme "We can do it!" rang throughout the auditorium over and over.

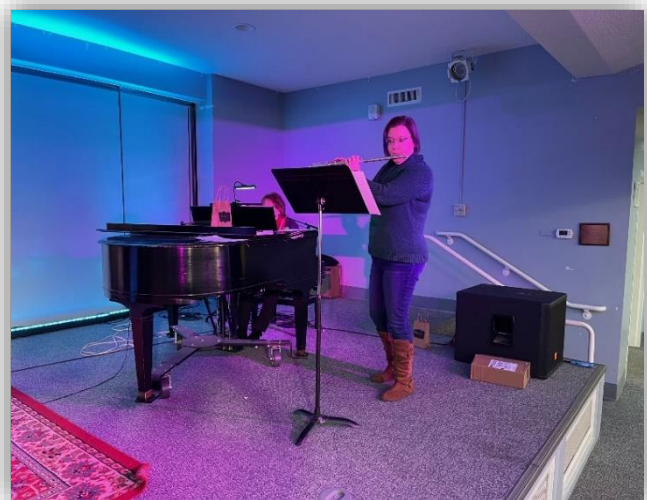
Picture taking against the yellow backdrop was

encouraged. *And they did.* Sisters who sported red headbands with white poke-a-dots guided participants to the rooms where the sessions were held. The sessions were very informative and provided time to interact with the presenters. *And they did.* Lunch was provided after the sessions, the registration report was given, the raffle was held, and the meeting concluded with the singing of the Delta Kappa Song. *And they sang it!* As sisters exited, they were offered a white flower stone oil diffuser, a parting gift to remind us of our sweet time together. Brava, Sarah – *You Did It!* And we showed that "**We Can Do it!**"

Nancy Kerce was honored as the member who was in attendance with the most years in DKG – 60 years!



Kristin Dow & Vanessa Pinto played beautiful music as members enjoyed breakfast goodies.



Alpha Kappa Members - District I Meeting

We Can Do It!

We had a wonderful time. District I spans from Pensacola to Madison County. Alpha Kappa had 13 attending: Monica Hayes, Connie Lewis, Patte Casey, Nancy Watson, Stacy Thompson, Susan Vinson, Diane Johnson, June Townsend, Gale Workman, Nancy Henning, Kathy Drake, Terry Sellers, Gina Daniels. The total attending was 68.



Chapter Presidents - The outgoing chapter presidents were honored for their service and then the President-elects were asked to take the stage. They were welcomed and thanked for volunteering to serve as their respective chapters' next president. They will serve for two years beginning July 1, 2024. Congratulations to our new Alpha Kappa president, Stacy Thompson (pictured below on left). We appreciate you! Thank you to all the ladies of DKG Florida who have volunteered to lead their chapters.



Members Participate in District I Program

Kathy Drake, a new member to Alpha Kappa, gave the Inspirational Thought at the General Session. It was moving and included a bit of humor. . . as she ended with “When one door closes. . .open it!” There are so many opportunities in the Delta Kappa Society; each of us can find a way to participate and to serve. In the picture to the left are two Alpha Kappa members who have long served our chapter. Both June Townsend and Susan Vinson are past presidents. Susan (on right in picture 2) volunteered to staff the table offering the District I pins to members for their name badges.



State Committee Reports - The reports were made during the General Session. Each chair updated the members on committee activities.

Workshops - These reports informed the membership about current events, prepared members to communicate with Gen Z, gave updates on Legislation, explained leadership and advocacy for DKG and addressed other issues relevant to DKG members. Thank you to all of the District I members and others who prepared and presented these sessions. (Below from left to right, Donna Heald gave updates on Legislative Affairs and tells members what they can do to make a difference. Ann Comforter addressed how to Recruit-Retain-Reinstate & Support members and Elinor Mount-Simmons, gave her Communications report and later conducted her session to inform members about applying for the Communications Award).



Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar – Basket Raffle Income Supports Seminar

Beautiful baskets were made by each chapter attending. Each basket was to represent something about the area where the chapter was located. Our chapter put together two baskets, one to represent FAMU and the other to represent FSU. Thank you, Stacy Thompson, our President-Elect, for putting these baskets together. The raffle baskets raised \$728.75. Proceeds go to support further growth in our district and state by supporting the Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar which will be held on June 16-19, 2024. Applications, due April 6, 2024 are available on the state website. <https://dkgflorida.weebly.com/leadership-committee.html>



Ladies admire the beautiful basket provided by each chapter attending the District I meeting. Some chapters brought more than one. We all knew it was for a good cause. These ladies are having a difficult time deciding which ones to place their raffle tickets near. Obviously by the amount raised, the participants bought a lot of tickets, only one dollar each. We hope that those who would like to attend the Leadership Conference will apply.



The ladies of District I and guests from other districts enjoyed visiting and getting to know others from chapters outside our district who joined us for the day. Thank you to all who worked so hard to make this a successful District I Meeting. (Pictured standing in the picture to the left is Alpha Kappa's newly inducted President, Stacy Thompson.)



**Parting gifts of stone oil diffusers to remind us of our sweet time together.
We can do it. . .and we did!**

