

**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, 2019
Prepared by Connie Lewis**

President's Message – Nancy Watson



AK Sisters,

Hello Spring and longer days of daylight. A time for planting, cleaning and raising expectations!

The 60th Celebration committee is hard at work planning a wonderful event to give us a look back and propel us into the future. Watch for more news soon and plan to participate in this special event.

The Florida State (formerly Mu State) Convention is April 26 – 28. It is not too late to register and be a part of the events and chapter celebrations of 50 – 60 (including AK) and 80 years of DKG. As they say, the more the merrier. Delores, Nancy, and I would love to have you join us.

Don't forget our April 1 meeting at the downtown library from 6-8 pm. Melissa Olsen will be discussing Gifted Education.

In the spirit of education, I would like for you to consider helping in #ClaimAClassroom for Bay Counties #850 effort to recover from Hurricane Michael. They are asking for specific items or gift cards as stated below:

From Bay District Schools Facebook post 3/5/19. Example: "Here's a short list of what is needed RIGHT NOW: A couch, office chairs for flexible seating, bean bag chairs, kindergarten rugs (these suckers are pricey ... \$350 each on Amazon but they are apparently pretty critical in kindergarten for circle time), camera equipment, personal CD players, science kits, math manipulatives, first grade novels, YA novels, art supplies. ALL of these are items that teachers purchased themselves and lost when the roofs blew off their classrooms and/or the walls caved in. If you can help, email Michasj@bay.k12.fl.us or mail gift cards to 1311 Balboa Ave., Panama City, FL 32401 and identify the items you'd like purchased or where you'd like to direct the gift card. All of these requests are being screened.

Alpha Kappa might contribute by taking up a collection at the meeting to put into a gift card.

Best in DKG,

Nancy

Melanie Hester – Assistant Treasurer - Member Spotlight

Melanie has contributed in many ways to education. She graduated from Florida State University School, as a 13-year student. Several of her mentors from FSUS are Alpha Kappa members. Mel was inducted into Alpha Kappa in 2014 and is already a member of the Board as the Assistant Treasurer.

For 25 years as a teacher, with the last 18 at FSUS, Mel has contributed to her students, teachers, pre-service teachers, and has authored materials for the classroom.



Her achievements have been recognized by her colleagues as she has been named District Teacher of the Year twice, once in 2007 and again in 2015. In addition, her professional achievements and personal drive have been rewarded by achieving the rank of University School Full Professor, one of only two faculty on campus to have achieved this rank.

Her primary classroom responsibilities are teaching Advanced Placement, Honors Biology and Philosophy. She also teaches Anatomy and Physiology, the foundation of the school's successful Health Science Program. She embraces social media and her organization skills to ensure all of her students are aware of current events.

She believes students learn in multiple ways. To facilitate their learning, she employs the use of interactive notebooks, group work, discussion posts, social media posts, and social media inspired assignments, to name a few. She is continually seeking new methods to stimulate her students to become involved in their own learning.

Mel also participates in a variety of student activities i.e., Student Government Sponsor, class level sponsor and National Honor Society adviser. Her involvement includes fund raising, organizing school carnivals and homecoming activities, prom adviser and planning the Senior Banquet and Awards Ceremony.

Mel supervises pre-service teachers, interns, and observers to support and inspire the future generation of educators. Her door is always open and welcoming to others.

As a presenter at Education Conferences, she demonstrates the methods used in her classrooms to encourage teachers to use creative ways to instruct without sacrificing content or classroom management. In addition, she grows professionally by learning about innovations other educators are using to motivate and energize students to become engaged in learning.

One of Mel's greatest accomplishments was her participation in a grant which ultimately led to the publication *Author on the Argument Driven Inquiry Books* which resulted in a series of resource books for teachers from NSTA Press. She has been invited to speak at national

conferences about using ADI in the high school and middle school science classroom. She also has served as Teacher expert in training sessions for learning about the ADI process.

Mel is constantly reflecting on how to be more effective in the classroom to inspire her students to be involved, so they may be successful in the classroom and in their future endeavors. Through her teaching, involvement in student activities, supervision of pre-service teachers, research, writings and teacher education, Mel is a life-long learner who seeks to find innovative methods as a professional educator to inspire her students, at all levels, to be successful. We are so proud she is an Alpha Kappa Sister!

Rally in Tally was held February 11th and 12th to meet with our legislative senators and representatives to discuss educational issues, represent DKG and let our voices be heard. Gwen Graham, Former Candidate for FL Governor,



2018, met with Big Bend members during the evening session. Thirty-one members of DKG from throughout Florida attended the successful rally. Details of the event can be found in the US Forum SE Report (below)

US Forum SE Report – February, 2019 - Highlights

- A total of 31 Florida DKG members participated in the Rally in Tally
- Review of Talking Points with Legislators
- Forum Facebook Link
- Webpage at <http://www.usforumdkg.org/>
- Information to contact legislators

Note: To read entire February, 2019 Forum Newsletter go to <http://www.deltakappagamma.org/FL-alphakappa/Events.html>, under announcements.

Legislative Meeting - Linda Edson (left picture) was our speaker. She is a retired Leon County 4th grade teacher at Killearn Lakes Elementary. After 41 years in the classroom, she decided to check out the legislature and now serves as a volunteer who frequently assists Senator Montford. Thank you, **Gale** for hosting the meeting.



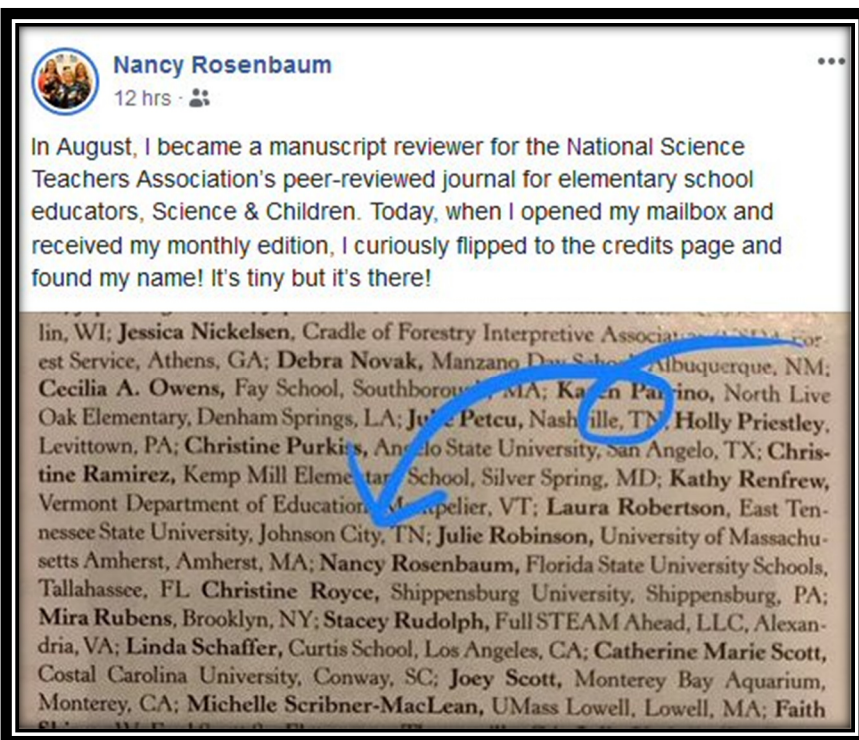
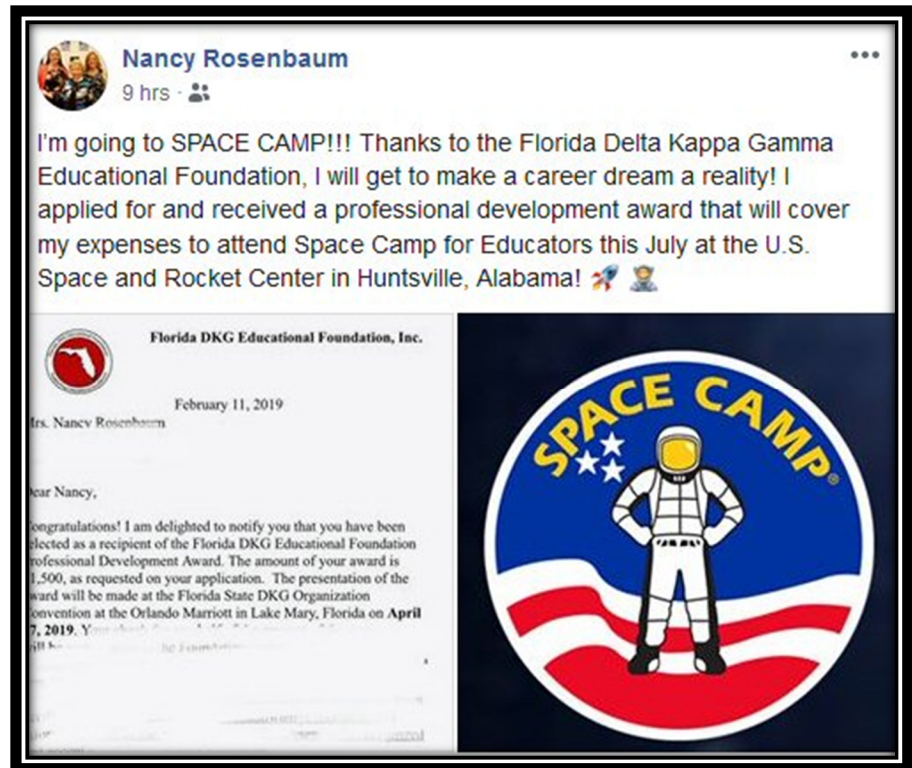
Leon County District History Fair was held February 22, 2019 at Lively. The event was represented by all Leon County middle and high schools. Three of our members volunteered to judge the projects submitted. Thank you, Nikki, Rhonda, and Nancy for your service to the students of Leon County and for making Alpha Kappa members visible in the community.



Congratulations, Nancy!

We are so proud of you. Hope you come back to us from space. Enjoy your adventure.

Remember, Alpha Kappa sisters, you too, can travel. Just apply for a professional development grant through FL DKG Educational Fund!



And again. . . for becoming a **manuscript reviewer** for the National Science Teachers Association peer-reviewed journal for elementary school educators, Science & Children.

Keep up the good work, Nancy! You are a busy professional. We are proud to have you as a sister in Alpha Kappa.

Remembering . . .

Jo Anne Arnett's Husband – Joseph Wurtz Arnett, Jr.



Joe passed at age 92 on January 29, 2019. A celebration of his life was held at the All Saints Anglican Church on February 9th. Jo Anne and Joe were married for 39 years. Please keep Jo Anne and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Jo Anne has been a member of Alpha Kappa since 2007 and is the CEO of Tallahassee Christian College & Training Center (Tcctc.org).

She has graciously hosted our Holiday Celebration at her home which she beautifully decorates for Christmas. We appreciate you, Jo Anne.

Mark Your Calendars – Chapter Events

- Monday, April 1, 2019, 6 - 8 p.m., Program Meeting Presenter, Melissa Olson on Gifted Education, Leroy Collins Library - Program Room B, Downtown
- Saturday, May 18, 2019, 11-1 - Founders' Day (BBCC), Elks Club (responsibilities place and menu)
- Thursday, June 27, 2019 - Celebration of Alpha Kappa's Diamond 60th Anniversary Delores Hudson, chair.
- July, 2019, 11:30 am, Summer Social (pending)
- September 20-21, 2019 - Mu State Fall Workshop and Executive Board Meeting, The Orlando Marriot Lake Mary, FL

