

**The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Alpha Kappa of Mu State
Mission Statement**

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

Newsletter - October, 2018

Prepared by Connie Lewis

President's Message – Nancy Watson

This year is off to a busy start. Our August meeting at Ginny Densmore's house was a lovely way to get underway. Our 60th Anniversary celebration committee, chaired by Delores Hudson, started to make plans for a look back to our founding sisters, Alpha Kappa's accomplishments through the years, and our mission going forward.

The Florida State (formerly Mu State) Fall Workshop was held Sept 21-22 in Lake Mary. Delores Hudson, Nancy Rosenbaum, and I had a wonderful time learning more about the state level of Delta Kappa Gamma, the 80+ chapters, and made many new DKG friends.

There are some changes coming from the Bylaws Committee, such as decisions on/or clarification of:



- The name of the state organization is changing to reflect the geographic location. A final decision will be made at the Spring Conference, but it appears it will be some variation of: FLS, Florida State, Florida State Organization, Florida State Organization of DKG, Florida State Organization of DKG Society International.
- The addition of a new category of membership for university level education students. These members will be a special classification with a different due's category. They will not be considered Active Members. (This must be added to the chapter's Standing Rules before implementation)
- Initiation has now been changed to Induction. New initiates will now be called new inductees.
- 2019 dues will be collected in June to coincide with the fiscal year.
- Chapters may choose to meet electronically, if all members can see and be heard.
- Voting may take place by mail, then verified at the next Face-to-Face meeting
- The Constitution may be amended at every State Convention
- Publication of the RAYS will be done electronically and quarterly. (This one was voted on and adopted at the Fall Workshop and will save the state organization \$9500)

It was a busy Fall Workshop with much learn and absorb, as well as, an exciting opportunity to fellowship with the state leaders and chapter members.

If you missed the September meeting, you really missed a dynamic and informative program on how to protect yourself and others in the event of an active shooter. Although our focus is education, this can happen anywhere in our society from the assumed safe haven of churches, movie theaters, concerts, etc. Deputy Mike Wallace did a wonderful job of educating through insights learned from past events. He is available to any group to raise awareness and prevent tragedies.

Our next meeting is Oct 13 at the Eastside Library where our own Connie Lewis and Rhonda Work will orient our new members and refresh our other members. We will have a brief meeting following the orientation and the 60th Celebration committee will meet.

Member Spotlight – Nikki Abels, Recording Secretary

Nikki Abels earned her BA in Special Education at FSU and her MEd in Administration and Supervision at FAU. She began her teaching career in 1971 in Broward County, Fl. She taught middle school ESE classes comprised of students with developmental delays, and learning and behavioral issues.

After eight years in the classroom, she went on to become a Program Specialist. Her job involved assisting ESE students, teachers and parents in a variety of settings to include pre-k to secondary schools. Nikki did this for 15 years. At that point in her career, she wanted and needed a change. She was given the opportunity to become part of a team that screened and evaluated pre-school children aged birth through 5 for possible placement in ESE pre-school programs. Nikki was the developmental specialist and teamed with a speech pathologist to complete the assessments.



She was also an adjunct professor for twenty plus years at FAU. She taught a variety of courses in the ESE department ranging from general special education topics and assessment and was the university supervisor for students in their practicum and student teaching terms.

During her career, Nikki attended yearly CEC (Council for Exceptional Children) International Conventions and had the privilege of presenting several sessions on various topics.

She is now retired, but still keeps her teaching skills alive working at the Tallahassee Museum of History and Natural Science and mentoring at Kate Sullivan.

Nikki is involved in her church singing and ringing bells. She is also a member of Voces Angelorum, a local women's singing group. She enjoys reading, walking and supporting her FSU Seminoles. She especially enjoys spending time with her grandson whenever possible.

Nikki was sponsored for membership in DKG by Rhonda and currently serves as Alpha Kappa's recording secretary.

CRASE – Citizen's Response to Active Shooter Events – June Townsend

Thanks to Dawn James for arranging our September 24th meeting at the Leon County Sheriff's Offices and to Nancy Watson, for writing much of this post. The Citizen's Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) program by Deputy Mike Wallace was extremely informative and eye opening. He has been involved in assessing every school in Leon County to provide plans for securing our schools against intruders intending to do harm to our students, faculty, and school personnel. He was very engaging and informative in how procedures have changed, how school safety plans should reflect the changes, and how we should react in a crisis shooting event.

Some of what we have "learned" and practiced in emergency situations over the years is outdated and does not serve us well, if we want to survive in this day of gun violence. Through examples from what has been learned from the shootings, such as the one at Columbine HS, and the school board meeting closer to home in Panama City, Deputy Wallace made his point that we all need to be ever vigilant about our surrounding (e.g. exit strategies, defensive strategies, and survival strategies).



He reminded us that although law enforcement is quick to respond, there are crucial minutes in which we must react to the situation for our own survival and those around us. "Duck and Cover" from the Cold War training or hiding under the tables in the library, as was done at Columbine HS, are not successful survival strategies today.

Deputy Wallace condensed a 4-hour workshop to about an hour and a half for our group of educators. However, we are all vulnerable in many places besides our schools, such as theaters, restaurants, shopping areas, sporting events, concerts, places of worship and businesses, and need to be more aware of our surroundings. We learned strategies that can help us take charge in an emergency, to create the best possible outcome in a crisis situation.

This is a training that would be beneficial to everyone in the community. If you are interested in attending a session, or arranging one for another group, you may contact Deputy Mike Wallace at the Leon County Sheriff's Office.

Partnership with the TCC Journalism Class Taught by Professor Reggie Grant

Yes, the project is a GO! Thank you, Gale Workman for all your efforts on behalf of our chapter!

Here's how it works: AK Chapter has partnered with the TCC journalism class this fall. Each of the 27 students, under the supervision of Professor Reggie Grant, will write a 350-word bio about an assigned DKG member's impact on education. At the end of the semester, each bio and digital headshot will be submitted to Alpha Kappa chapter.

Each bio will be vetted by the participating DKG member, with the hope each member will allow DKG to use the bio/photo in our chapter-state newsletters/website.

If you elected to participate, you agreed that Alpha Kappa can provide Professor Grant your contact information, so the assigned student can contact you for an interview.

Gale has worked with Professor Grant (and his students) since 1999 when he was her grad student at FAMU.



Congratulations to

Delores Hudson and Nancy Rosenbaum for being recognized at the State Fall Workshop as DKG Women to Watch.

Delores Hudson and Nancy Watson for their selection and attendance at the Leadership Conference.

Nancy Watson, Delores Hudson, and Nancy Rosenbaum for representing Alpha Kappa at the State Fall Workshop.





AK Meeting Schedule - Mark your Calendars!

- Sat., October 13, 2018, 10 am., Orientation of Prospective Members, East Side Library, 1583 Pedrick Rd.
- Sat., November 3, 2018, 11 am – 1 pm - Initiation (BBCC), Elks Lodge, 276 N Magnolia Dr, Magnolia Drive
- Thurs., December 6, 2018, 6 p.m. 2018, Fellowship and Cookie Exchange, Members' Sharing, JoAnne Arnett's house, 2102 Lake Forest Dr
- Sat., February 23, 2019 - Legislative Meeting (BBCC), Place/Time TBA
- Mon., April 1, 2019, 6 p.m., Program Meeting, Melissa Olson "Sanford Harmony, A training on social and emotional development of students", June Townsend's home.
- Apr., 26-28, 2019 - Mu State Spring Conference, Orlando Marriott, Lake Mary, Fl
- Sat., May 18, 2019 - Founders' Day (BBCC), Place/Time TBA
- Thurs., June 27, 2019 - Celebration of Alpha Kappa's 60th Birthday