

**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 – March/April 2021

Prepared by Connie Lewis



President's Message – Nancy Rosenbaum

It is hard to believe that it has been a full year since we have had a meeting where we were able to all be together, in person. This year has presented so many challenges and changes due to COVID-19 and our way of life is completely different than it had been before. Yet one thing that continues to stand strong, is the sisterhood of Alpha Kappa. While Zoom is not always pleasant or convenient, it has given us the ability to continue our fellowship and has provided a platform for us to have productive meetings. In some cases, it has provided the opportunity for members to participate who were unable to make it to in-person meetings in the past. While I would do anything to be with all of you face-to-face, rather than being sad, I am choosing to focus on the GOOD things that are happening around us in life. For example, since the winter holiday, we as a chapter have been able to....

- assist a third classroom with funds to support needs for students. Melanie Hester's students got to dissect kidneys as the result of a gift we shared with her class!
- support the Lundquist Scholarship House residents during a unique school year by providing multiple meals, packing their pantry, providing them with larger house needs, and meeting with residents to share more about ourselves as well as being there to listen to their experiences as college students during COVID.
- collect and donate **259** books for the Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend, focusing our energy on providing multi-cultural literature for youth. This is an IMPRESSIVE number considering this book collection had to be completed without our usual chapter gatherings. Thank you to everyone who took the time to order books, deliver books, or make arrangements for books to be picked up!

I'm looking to the silver linings and know that we are getting closer to the time when we will be able to meet again in person. I look forward to resuming all of our favorite activities such as holding hands while singing the DKG Song, exchanging holiday treats in the winter, gathering for a meal at the Lundquist House, joining with the other chapters of the BBCC to bring new members into our sisterhood, and SO MUCH MORE! Until this time comes, please remain safe and healthy!





Spotlight – Nancy Henning, DKG State of Florida President and AK Member

I was born at Shepard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas. Being raised in a military family meant we moved frequently and created many wonderful memories along the way. Before Dad's retiring to Tallahassee, we had lived in Texas, Illinois, Washington DC and the Philippines.

I have been in Tallahassee since 6th grade, having attended Kate Sullivan Elementary School, Elizabeth Cobb Junior High School and graduating from Leon High School. I was quite the middle of the road student with interests in the fine arts classes that were available. While in high school I participated in the choral music program and was a member of Thespians (the theater troupe).

My higher education has been provided by Florida State University. I have earned four degrees, all in the educational field. My teaching certificate includes many areas including Early Childhood Education, Middle Grades Mathematics and Science, and Educational Leadership. While at FSU I became a member of the Women's Glee Club (ladies singing ensemble) and Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority.

I began my teaching career the Monday morning after graduation (BS) at Sopchoppy Elementary School in Wakulla County. I took over a Kindergarten class for a teacher out on maternity leave. I stayed in Wakulla county for 7 years. I taught 5th grade and Title I Math at Crawfordville Elementary School and had the privilege of teaching at Wakulla Middle School it's opening year. That year at Wakulla Middle School I was our team's leader and taught Reading, Language Arts, Math and Science.

My teaching career then went "home" when a Math position at Cobb Middle School became available. I taught 6th and 7th grade math until I became the Dean of Students. From this point until I retired, I was doing administrative work, with a class thrown in here and there to keep me in the reality of the everyday life of teachers and students. Fast forward 20 years and I am now at Fairview Middle School. I continued at Fairview until my retirement. My biggest professional accomplishment while at Fairview was being the 21st Century Community Learning Center Coordinator, a federally funded program which provides after school educational instruction and services to students and their families. I retired in 2015, my last year in teaching I went back to my roots in the classroom full time, teaching 7th grade Math. It was the best year ever and I left with wonderful, happy memories.

I was brought into The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International by Linda Walker, my Assistant Principal of Curriculum in 1982. What an honor it has been to be able to participate and serve in this wonderful society. Serving, I find, is the key to fully getting the benefits that this society offers. I have served at the chapter level as Membership Chair, Treasurer, Program Chair, Vice President and President. I was the District I Director in 2006-2008. At the state level I have served on numerous committees and as chair of the Program of Work Committee (now EEC). I am currently serving as President of Florida State Organization, previously having held the elected offices of Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, 2nd Vice President and 1st Vice President. While I have not served on any International Committees yet, I have attended and presented at numerous conferences and conventions.

Being a newer member of Alpha Kappa, I look forward to serving and contributing to the work we do for our society, community, teachers and students.

Monica Hayes – Thank You!

We are so excited that she has volunteered to fill the position of President-Elect and join our Executive Board. We look forward to working with her. This experience will give her the opportunity to learn more about our administration and how we function as well as about the responsibilities involved in becoming President of Alpha Kappa.



ELC Book Drive

Alpha Kappa collected 259 books this year to give to their Program, "My First Books". Children are given an opportunity to select a book to take home to keep for their own. Thanks to **Monica Hayes** for chairing this effort and stamping all the books. We appreciate you!



District I Director - Ann Comforter

Searching for the Next District Director

I volunteered to be your District Director, not because I wanted the position, but the decision was born out of a desire to give back to an organization that I love dearly. Delta Kappa

Gamma was there to give us support both financially and emotionally when my chapter was devastated with losses from Hurricane Michael. When no one stepped up to become your director, I wanted my chapter to be able to say "Thank You" to a group of ladies who have worked tirelessly to keep our organization moving forward. I have done my best during this unusual time, and now we are searching for our new director who will assume this office in 2022.

The responsibilities of a District Director include becoming a member of the executive board and attending all state meetings. We are to be a liaison between the state and local chapters; promote all DKG initiatives; support the state president and encourage member attendance at state and district meetings; encourage scholarship applications and promote the Jesslyn McBride Leadership Development Seminar. Our main responsibility is to plan the District meeting which occurs every other year.

This is a personal message from Carrie Frye about what to look for in a director. "The district director should have some experience of participating at the state level. She should have attended a district meeting so she has some knowledge of

what it is like. So, it can be a past or present chapter president, a committee member or just a very active member who participates at different levels. Strong leadership skills are important..."

The new district director will be selected on January 22, 2022 at the District I meeting in Port St. Joe. It's very important that we have a director by this date. We want District I to continue to move forward. If your chapter has someone who will qualify, please let me know. It's one of the most rewarding positions that I've ever been honored to have. I have been able to meet some amazing and gifted ladies who are also proud to be a member.

If you have questions, please contact me at anncomforter@gmail.com . I look forward to talking with you.

Members Share Something Good!



Patti Brownstein has students getting their high school diplomas through the GED and graduating!

Gale Workman works at the Florida Legislature during Session. She is a writer/editor for the House Journal, which is the historical record of the Florida House of Representatives. It's fun to work with a motivated team of public servants who enjoy heated debate over comma placement or subject-verb agreement.



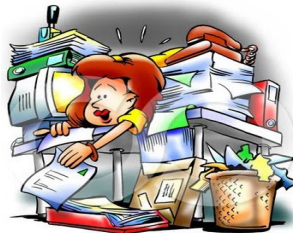
Delores Hudson has been enjoying using Libby which is the online library app. Anyone who has a library card can download the app and check out books or tapes there. She recently checked out and enjoyed *Heart of the Matter* by Emily Giffin. Next, she has a *Biography of Marian Anderson*.

Nancy Rosenbaum has an intern this semester who is truly OUTSTANDING! She was really nervous about taking a student teacher during COVID because there is SO MUCH technology (especially in a hybrid learning environment) for them to learn in addition to teach strategies and content. This has been the most rewarding experience and has really provided Nancy with an opportunity for GREAT personal-reflection. She has so much hope for her intern's future in education!



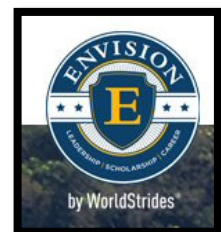
Nancy Henning has virtually met with the majority of DKG chapters in the state of Florida. Plans are underway for our first hybrid Convention and it's looking good.

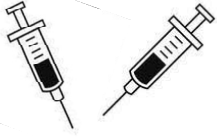
Ginny Densmore is catching up on projects



that have been waiting years to get done.

Gina Daniels – Congratulations to my granddaughter, 2021 Nominee Miss Kariyah Daniels, Sixth Grader, in Honor of her Academic Achievement and Leadership Ability. Educator Charles Williams has nominated her to Represent Gadsden Elementary Magnet School at the Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D. C. Our family will be traveling to Washington, D. C. in July 2021. We are so proud of her!





Rhonda Work has received her two COVID shots and has completed the two-week wait period. As a result, she celebrated by going to lunch at Sage Restaurant with a friend. What a sense of freedom!! But she is still being cautious and wearing her mask.



Summary of Legislative Meeting – February 20, 2021

Submitted by Nikki Abels
Issues that Effect Education



FL House Representative **Allison Tant** spoke about the following:

- She is a member of the Education Post-Secondary and Lifelong Learning Committee.
- She is an integral part of KEYS, which is a scholarship program for post-secondary educational options for students with disabilities. It has been funded \$405,000 over a 15-year period. So far, they have awarded just fewer than 20 scholarships.
- She also supports the TTCC/Lively Tech College Programs, which provide support, and transition services for post-secondary students with disabilities

Legislative Bills:

She has sponsored a bill that requires an IEP Transition meeting for students with disabilities starting at age 12 instead of the current age of 14. And it will require a plan no later than the age of 16. She mentioned this bill has a companion senate bill.

Allison spoke about how the teaching profession has been under attack for a number of years. She is especially concerned about several bills currently being proposed:

- SB 84 that will require from a certain date that all new hires must be enrolled in the investment plan rather than the traditional plan. This closes options and will likely hurt the solvency of the current retirement system (which is one of the strongest in the country).
- SB 78 that requires additional procedures for the employers for members who want to join or revoke membership in an organization. It appears this is directed at teacher unions.
- HB 51/SB 1028, which allows universities and colleges to receive monies and become the LEA for charter, schools rather than the local school district.
- SB 48 which merges the 5 existing voucher programs into just 2 (Bill McKay/Gardner), increases the vouchers (at about 7% per year per student) to include home and private schools, provides for an Education Savings Account to parents and reduces the accountability period from one year to every 3 years.
- Allison said that she has had to fight for her son's education who is disabled.
- She also mentioned the school bus issues for last school year.
- Her big concern is that when education is impacted, so is the local economy. Our local economy is very education based with three major colleges in Leon County as well as a number of other post-secondary institutions. She voted against the bill on "intellectual freedom" which would require faculty and

students to be surveyed on the personal viewpoints. She is also concerned that it allowed non-consensual recordings in the classrooms.

Other during discussion:

Allison gave COVID-19 vaccine information.

SB 48 is regarding retirement options.



The DOE is requiring testing for schools this year, but the scores will not hurt the student's school grades. There is talk about year-round school spurred by COVID 19 issues. Allison doesn't feel this is necessary, as she feels that our students, in spite of teaching/learning issues our students have grown in compassion, resilience and emotional strength.

The combined voucher programs should focus on: the dollars being taken away from public schools, no requirement that children must first attend a public school, teacher certification issues, and charter schools opening and then closing with little or no notice to families. She is not sure that a lot of educators are aware of these issues, so she suggested we contact the legislative education committees and our local school districts.

Donna Heald mentioned SB 254 (Senator Stewart) dealing with transparency in charter schools. DKG has this as a priority this year and we should let our state senators/representatives know. Allison said she is supporting this bill.

FL Senator Lorraine Ausley spoke about the following:

Covid-19:

- One of her priorities is her concern that due to COVID 19, the legislature has not been able to meet in person as of yet. According to her, the governor has been running the government without any real legislative input.
- In the Big Bend area alone, there are 150,000 families who are currently food insecure. There are increases in home evictions, homelessness and unemployment.
- As for the COVID vaccine, she would like to more equitable distribution of the vaccine. Her priorities would be school staff members and those under 65 with underlying health conditions. She is also concerned that minority populations are being left out.
- She spoke about a bill that would look at our public health system and the burden it bears without additional funding. In fact, despite the COVID crisis, many health department budgets are actually being cut back.



Students losing academic ground:

Lorraine spoke about our students losing academic ground due to inconsistent schooling because of the pandemic.

Her two big priorities are:

- Early learning issues. She spoke about needing, especially now, good quality childcare. She believes there can be additional federal dollars made available to provide for this. She also believes that the administration is supportive of this. She is looking to sponsor a type of “Brighter Future Scholarship” for preschoolers and young children. It will be income based and focus on foster children and children with disabilities.
- High speed internet access. This would be especially true for rural areas where it is not readily available. It would also be for more urban areas where it may available, but not affordable. She would like the state to take advantage of any federal dollars that may be available to provide these services.



She is fighting these issues:

- The voucher bill (SB 48) and charter schools which siphon money from the FEFP.
- SB 84, the FRS bill which would force new hires into the investment plan and hurt the funding needed for current and future retirees in the traditional plan,
- SB 78, the union/dues bill.
- HB 1, the bill to deal with protests, etc. It levies some severe consequences even for peaceful gatherings.
- SB 90, this would limit vote by mail to one election cycle and even if you signed up for 2020, you will need to sign up again for 2022.

Other during discussion:

Will there be some pushback from the governor when the legislature is finally back in session? Lorraine feels she has a stronger voice in the Senate. She is concerned about executive overreach now. She cited example of flying the flag at half-staff for Rush Limbaugh. The legislators have asked for special sessions to meet, but to no avail. She is not really sure how the situation will be moving forward.

Issue (brought by Donna Heald): rural internet access. At one time there was a way to connect through the DOE. She also said that maybe tax exemptions/credits might help. And perhaps going through the school systems' internet access might be an option. Lorraine said there is no statewide network currently in use. Perhaps satellite access could be one option. At one time E-rate was used, but has since be bought out by private companies. There is a \$50 per month federal funding source for urgent situations. Perhaps power coops could help out. The concern is they may not really be interested.

Susan Vinson mentioned that the school system has a voucher program through Comcast.



U S Forum Connection - The website has a new address: <https://www.dkgusforum.com>

The enhanced site will now enable members to connect directly with the Forum. DKG members can view suggested websites and receive updated information on current legislation and activities of the US Forum. We are invited to check it out.



My
Movie-720p30.mov

Thank You AK Members from the Ladies of the Lundquist House (To the right is the video the ladies made for us. Take a look!)

The ladies of the Lundquist-Hovda Scholarship House would like to sincerely thank you for your generosity. We are filled with gratitude not only due to your donations but also due to your compassion for us throughout the years. While the global pandemic has made it hard for us to meet you, we all look forward to welcoming you to our home in the near future. Due to your generosity, we have had less stressful days and have been more active

in our home. Your gifts from kitchen supplies to household items have allowed us to be more carefree and have reduced our financial burden. We see you all as our saving grace and as people who make the best mentors. We wish you all success and blessings in each walk of your life and hope to learn much more about you all. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!



Lundquist Ladies Wish List

We continue to support the Southern Foundation House at FSU. Please assist by purchasing some of the materials for this semester. Please let Nancy Watson know for assistance with delivery of supplies.

- Cleaning Supplies
 - Disinfecting Wipes
 - Disinfecting Spray (multipurpose)
 - Trash bags (39 Gallon size and Up)
 - Gloves (disposable)
 - Toilet Paper
 - Paper Towels

4 Air Wick Wall Plug-Ins [AirWick PlugIns](#)

Motion Sensor Lights [Motion Sensor Lights](#)

- Gift Cards
 - Chick fil A, Starbucks, Target, Subway, Tropical Smoothie Cafe, Cold Stone Creamery, etc.
- Wall Decor/Art (We will accept any kind) (We like floral/motivational art)
 - Posters
 - Pictures
 - Words of Encouragement
 - Flowers

Thank you very much! We will appreciate any items we can get!



Our Officers – We have three AK members who serve at the State level. We appreciate all our officers at all level for the service they give to our organization. We are grateful! Thank you!

**Florida State Officers
2019 - 2021**

MU State President
Dr. Nancy Henning

District I Director
Ann Comforter

**State Meetings
Registrar**
Dr. Rhonda Work

Alpha Kappa Officers

- **President:** *Nancy Rosenbaum*
- **Past President:** *Nancy Watson*
- **President-Elect:** *Dr. Monica Hayes*
- **Vice-President:** *Ruth Bickel*
- **Recording Secretary:** *Nikki Abels*
- **Corresponding Secretary:** *Melissa Olson*
- **Treasurer:** *Dr. Rhonda Work*
- **Communication Coordinator and Webmaster:** *Connie Lewis (Appointed by President)*
- **Parliamentarian:** *Lisa Phillips (Appointed by President)*



**Alpha Kappa Chapter
Spring/Summer 2021 Calendar of Events**

MONTH	DATE	ACTIVITY
January	01/19/21	6:00PM - Lundquist House Program w/ Residents via Zoom
	01/22/21	Teacher Needs Survey Closes
	01/26/21	9:00AM – 3:00PM - Rally in Tally via Zoom
February	02/01/21	Applications for DKG Educational Foundation Awards and Classroom Grants Due
	02/02/21	Florida DKG Convention Status will be Announced
	02/04/21	Executive Board Meeting
	02/20/21	10:30 am - BBCC Legislative Day via Zoom
March	03/01/21	Applications for The 2021 Florida Jesslyn McBride Leadership Seminar Due Applications for the 2021 Mary Woodbery Memorial Fund Scholarship Due
	03/02/21	6:00pm - Lundquist House Meeting
	03/11/21	5:30 pm – Early Learning Coalition Program and Meeting
April	04/30/21 – 05/01/21	Florida DKG State Convention
May	05/15/21	10:00 am – BBCC Founder’s Day

