

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 June - July, 2023

Prepared by Connie Lewis



President's Message – Monica Hayes

Hello Sisters!

I pray you are all well and making time in your busy schedules to take good care of yourselves. Educators both in the classroom and those supporting them are going through a rough time. It is important that we manage stress and tend to personal care.

I was reminded this weekend of how different it could be. I taught at Concord Academy from 1972-76. This year, Concord Academy is celebrating 100 years. Some students reached out and asked me to come to the celebration. You see, I was the first Black teacher and my then husband and I were the first Black family to live in a dorm on campus. Two years later, I was the first Black Director of Residence.

I am telling you this because all these years later, they wanted me to know how much I had impacted their lives. And not just the Black students, the White students too. Affirmation is so important. The small blessings, the kind words, the appreciation can mean so very much, particularly during stressful times when we might be dealing with more personal stressors.

I am saying we make a difference. Our work is not in vain, even with the difficult students. We are, can be, positive influences if not now, then later. We, the Sisters of Alpha Kappa, have a wonderful track record of making a difference. The recent State Convention bore witness to our strength and influence as we garnered three awards for Outstanding Service: The World Fellowship Award, the Chapter Membership Award, and the Communication and Marketing Award. Thanks to all of you for your contributions to our chapter and making it possible for us to be so honored.

At the same State Convention, seven amendments were presented for a vote. Proposed language changes included:

- Classifying the levels of membership
- Physical disability and geographical location should not be the only qualifiers.
- The Society now allows chapters to honor a woman who has achieved chapter, state, national, or international prominence.
- Clarification of the language pertaining to graduate and undergraduate students, so that members are clear.
- Language amended to the bylaws to be in conformity with the Constitution.
- Clarification of language pertaining to Leadership Development and Training for all members.
- Elimination of the requirement to print and distribute the amended bylaws to the membership.

All votes cast were in the affirmative for each proposed change.

I have made it through the first year of my biennium. Thanks, in no small measure to the Executive Board, my friends in Alpha Kappa, and the Big Bend Coordinating Council. This is indeed a treasured sisterhood replete with challenges and opportunities. We, as esteemed women educators, have a responsibility to respond to the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities for the good of the order. I know that together we can rise to the occasion and provide beneficial services, mentoring, and our collective experiences to help new and younger teachers navigate the troubled waters ahead.

I have every confidence in us.

Membership - Lisa Phillips, Membership Chair



It is that wonderful time of year when we begin to focus on thinking about interesting and important things to offer our members. This also includes opportunities to get together to share refreshments and good stories. It is also time to begin thinking about bright, talented, teachers who have leadership experience who would enjoy taking advantage of the many benefits offered via membership in this wonderful organization. Please remember to invite exceptional educational leaders to join. The bright, young teachers you know, filled with enthusiasm and great ideas, will benefit from the members of Alpha Kappa who can mentor them, and provide workshops etc., to enrich and enhance their experience in the field. Seasoned teachers and administrators as well as retired educators with significant leadership experience can help us continue to offer important personal and professional development opportunities.

Let us begin by **inviting prospective members** to our next social event which will be at Bumpa's Local 349 Restaurant on July 7. Also, please send your prospective member the application at <http://www.deltakappagamma.org/FL-alphakappa/Events.html>, under Reminders, **membership invitation and application form**.

I will be accepting applications until, Friday, July 21. As you submit the names of prospective members, do not forget your important role as their sponsor. Once inducted, you have the important role of mentoring your nominated member throughout the year to help them become an active participant in our wonderful chapter. Membership is by invitation only and considered a prestigious honor. Members are empowered with new knowledge and professional development targeted towards reaching their full potential. Upon induction, they become part of more than 75,000 DKG members impacting education worldwide. Let's make sure we choose wisely and well.

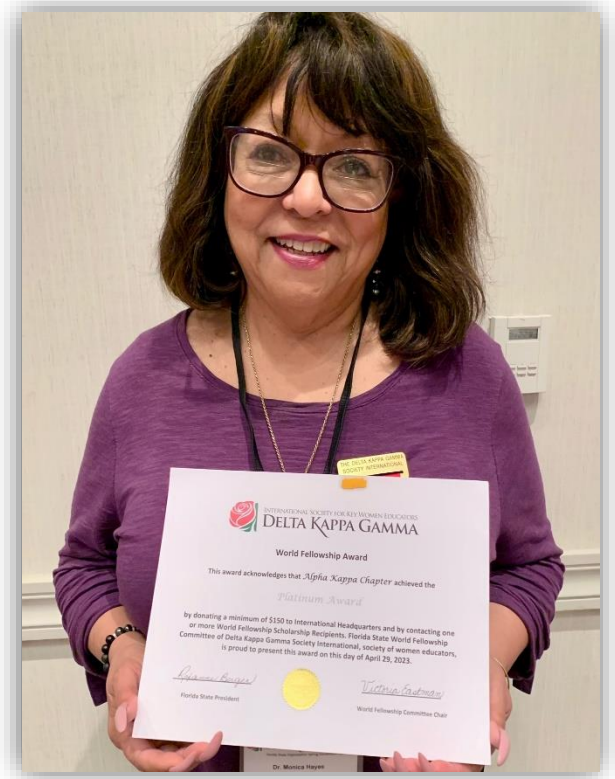
Also, if you are interested in working with me on the Membership Committee, drop me a note or a text to let me know. I would love to have some help. My email address is daniki13@gmail.com and phone number is (850) 510-5317.

Alpha Kappa Wins Multiple Awards at the Fall State Conference

Members should be proud to accept the awards for the following:

- ❖ World Fellowship – for contributions more than \$150.00 made to support those who receive scholarships and for contacting one or more of the scholarship recipients.
- ❖ Membership – for the increase in our membership by 11.3%
- ❖ Communication and Marketing - for Chapter Excellence. The award icon is on the first page of our website.

Thank you, Monica for representing us and receiving these awards.



Rhonda Work Receives State Hall of Fame Award – awarded for years of service in many roles and at many levels of Delta Kappa Gamma. We are so proud of you! The award was presented by Marlisa Santos, Chair, of the State Awards Committee. The beautiful pin below was given to Rhonda to honor her.





Members of the Big Bend Chapters who represented us at the State Conference.





INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS

DKG

Big Bend Coordinating Council Founders' Day Luncheon

Saturday, May 13, the ladies of the BBCC gathered at St. Stephen Lutheran Church to celebrate our founders.



Our District 1 Director, Sarah Watters, conducted the ceremony in recognition of our 24 founders. Rhonda Work placed the roses as each name was read.



Our BBCC Presidents, Jan Bennett, Beta Phi and Monica Hayes, Alpha Kappa, lead the program for Founder's Day.

DKG Scholarship Recipients – Presented by Sharon Simmons



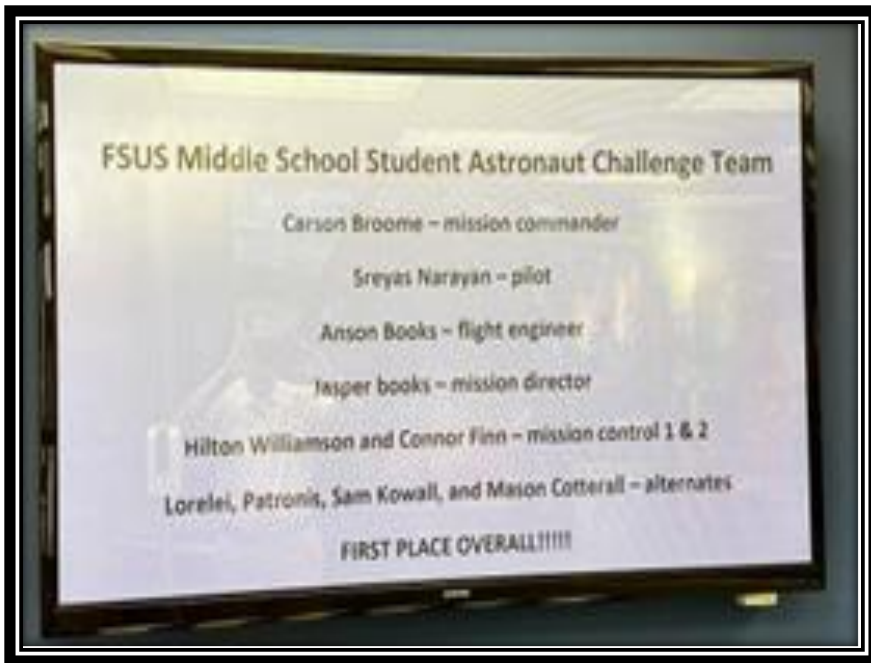
Luwinzie Wilson (left), a senior at FAMU, majoring in English Education and Amariyya Williams (right), a senior at FAMU, majoring in Elementary Education, were the recipients of the DKG Grants-In-Aid provided by the Big Bend Coordinating Council. Presenting them with their certificates is Sharon Simmons, chair of the BBCC Scholarship Committee.

Nancy Rosenbaum at Challenger Learning Center of Tallahassee - excellence in teaching and learning.

The Florida State University School middle school Student Astronaut Challenge Team was honored for winning the 2023 Middle School Student Astronaut Challenge Competition in February! A BIG thank you was given to Alan Hanstein and the Challenger Learning Center of Tallahassee who treated the team. It was a fun evening of pizza, friendship, and Guardians of the Galaxy 3!



We had a BLAST! 🚀



The Team and their Award! Congratulations!

CHAPTER PROJECTS – We need your help. . .

- ❖ **(New Project)** Hope Community Project services homeless families, children, and adults, (specifically homeless veterans). AK will collect books for all age. The materials for Hope do not have to be new. Nikki Abels will collect the books and they can be brought to chapter events.

- ❖ FSU Southern Scholarship Foundation House, the Lundquist House. We plan to meet at the house with the residents, bring meals to them and enjoy getting to know them. The chapter provides supplies to "pack their pantry" and other items the ladies have on their wish list. Please collect and send supplies and items to stock their pantry. They refer to AK members as their "House Champions". Please sign up on the **Lundquist House Wish List** at <http://www.deltakappagamma.org/FL-alphakappa/WishList-2023SSF.pdf> to send supplies and items. Nancy Watson is our contact member.



- ❖ Supplies for AK Educators - members submit their supply needs list on Amazon. Please help support our AK teachers as they prepare for this new year. The list is linked and can be found on the **AK Facebook page**. Stacy Thompson is our contact person.



- ❖ 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.



- ❖ 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!



Mark Your Calendars! New events coming up! We know you will be there!

- 📅 Friday, July 7 at 11 a.m. **Summer Social** at Bumpas (see poster below)
- 📅 Sunday, September 10, 2023, 1-3 p.m. Induction, St. Stephen Lutheran Church
- 📅 Saturday, Sept. 30, 10 a.m. Ginny Densmore's house, 9713 Waters Meet Drive
- **Chapter Meeting - Topic: DKG: Who Are We?**
- 📅 Saturday, January 20, 2024, District 1 Meeting, Trinity United Methodist Church
- 📅 May, 2024, Founders' Day.



DELTA KAPPA GAMMA
ALPHA KAPPA

SUMMER SOCIAL

7 JULY

START AT 11:00AM
BUMPA'S LOCAL 349
RESTAURANT
2738 CAPITAL CIRCLE NE

WHAT TO BRING:
COINS FOR WORLD FELLOWSHIP
NEW/USED BOOKS FOR HOPE HOUSE
DUES \$85

Bring prospective members!



DKG
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY
FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS

The poster features a vibrant, colorful design with various summer-themed illustrations including a sun, sunglasses, a straw hat, a watermelon slice, a pink popsicle, a blue and white striped flip-flop, a blue and white ice cream cone, a yellow swimsuit, and a drink with a straw and umbrella. The text is centered and uses a mix of bold, sans-serif fonts in red and blue.