



The Heartbeat of Georgia Alpha Delta Kappa

by Terri Thompson

September 2025

Volume II

Issue 3

Helen Hunt Jackson's poem September - The golden-rod is yellow, the corn is turning brown, the trees in apple orchards with fruit are bending down. By all these lovely tokens September days are here, with summer's best of weather, and autumn's best of cheer. But none of all this beauty which floods the earth and air is unto me the secret which makes September fair. "T" is a thing which I remember, to name it thrills me yet. One day of one September I never can forget. - reminds us that Fall will follow soon. (Lines 1-4, 17-20, 21-24, and 25-28)

This time of year brings cool, crisp mornings, warm afternoons, and balmy evenings. It is a perfect time for day trips to the North Georgia mountains for "apple picking". Red, green, and yellow varieties are in abundance. It is one of my favorite fall excursions. If you are unable to find an orchard, roadside markets tempt you to take home a dozen or two bags of "just picked" varieties.

According to the AI companion on my computer, apples are associated with teachers due to a mix of historical reasons: 1) In the 18th and 19th centuries, they served as a practical form of payment or sustenance for teachers, who were often provided housing and food by families, especially on the American frontier. 2) The apple also carries a symbolic meaning, representing the fruit of knowledge from the biblical Tree of Knowledge. 3) The apple serves as a symbol of gratitude and appreciation from students to their educators, especially around the time of the autumn harvest when apples were plentiful. 4) Apples were a readily available and versatile gift, and they were



often harvested at the beginning of the school year, making them a logical choice. 5) And lastly the association was further solidified in popular culture with the phrase - "an apple for the teacher" becoming a well know idiom by the early 20th century.

My first year of teaching, I received a special "apple" ornament from a dear student that I still hang on my Christmas tree every year. I hope you receive a special "apple" sometime!

2024-2026 Executive Board

PRESIDENT

Terri Thompson

tlstthompson27@gmail.com

478-224-1287

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Pat Smith

adkps97@gmail.com

706-975-1064

VP FOR MEMBERSHIP

Carolyn Pietkewicz

clpietkewicz@gmail.com

912-655-5400

SECRETARY

Lynn Fuller

nanilynn62@gmail.com

706-464-0224

TREASURER

Lisa Tilley

tilleylisa@bellsouth.net

678-361-5119

CHAPLAIN

Janet Robison

robisonjanet@gmail.com

404-213-7813

VP FOR SCHOLARSHIP

Kellie Hubbard

kelliehubbardadk@gmail.com

706-957-0751

HISTORIAN

Melissa Blankenship

melissab.betapi@gmail.com

478-397-5396

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Sharon Collins

sharcoll44@gmail.com

404-277-8984

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT & CO VPM

Debbie Boswell

debbieb.adk@gmail.com

770-714-7444

Terri   



Membership

OFF to a GREAT 2nd YEAR OF 2024-2026!

Georgia Chapters across all 10 Districts have certainly been busy the past couple of months evaluating successes and making plans for the second year of the 2024-2026 biennium! I dare say there is much creativity and forward thinking among our diverse group of districts and chapters! It is also exciting to hear about the NEW SISTERS, REINSTATED SISTERS and PROSPECTS of NEW MEMBERS for the fall.

As you begin initiating NEW Members or Reinstating members, please be sure to read the process for registering your members on the International Directory. EACH NEW member must use their own technology to register!

Also, anyone registering from September through December 2025 will NOT pay International dues again until January 2027.

One reminder is that sisters often forget the COMPLETE name of the chapter they are joining, so easy for anyone to do if typing in a hurry! If you need help just email, text or call and we'll be happy to help!

CHAPTER NEEDS ASSESMENT 2025-2026 UPDATE

We are excited to share that CNA UPDATES will NOT be completed on a JOT FORM!

Once we receive the information below we will be sharing with our Regional Membership Team on September 15th and our Executive Board on September 20th.

Please think about the following questions and let me know your thoughts! You can do this via email with your Executive Board, at your September meeting or talk with a few of your members. Please email responses to: ddboswell01@gmail.com by September 13th

- What are you most proud of in the first year of the biennium with your chapter?
- What is the progression towards reaching each of the 2024-2026 goals?
- Does the chapter need to revise any of the goals?
- Are there other goals that the chapter will work on this coming year?
- What support might your chapter needs from your Membership Team?

THINGS TO THINK about....and take a look at!

...Generations, the unique characteristics of each and SHARED LEADERSHIP!

The video from the membership Seminar this past summer at International Convention about shared leadership is now on the website. Please take a few minutes to look this over. Let's look for opportunities to join in on a conversation in the weeks to come!

- Chapter Virtual Meeting Guidelines
- Flexible Chapter Meeting Ideas
- Shared Leadership Ideas for Chapter Officers
- Shared Leadership Structures

ENJOY the days ahead as the weather seems to be saying

FALL WILL BE HERE SOON and that brings FUN DISTRICT MEETINGS !

Carolyn and Debbie

Altruism in Action

Look at these
HEARTS for
altruism
projects!



Beta Chi Chapter's C2O Project -teaching Dublin High School After School Program students how to play Pickleball!!



Chi Chapter making blankets for the Linus Project



Georgia Alpha Delta Kappa Cares Altruistically

Violets to my Alpha Delta Kappa Sisters....Update on our St. Jude Altruistic project: Thank you, Sisters! We have a total \$560 so far. Amazing! September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Our goal is to reach \$1,000 by end of September. Why do we support St. Jude? The KIDS! Thank you for supporting the lifesaving work that is happening at St. Jude today. When you click donate, you are helping to ensure families can spend quality time with their child.... not worrying about a bill for treatment, travel, housing, or food.

Here's the link to our [Alpha Delta Kappa Violets page](https://fundraising.stjude.org/site/TR/Walk/Walk?team_id=321359&pg=team&fr_id=160944).

https://fundraising.stjude.org/site/TR/Walk/Walk?team_id=321359&pg=team&fr_id=160944

You can become a team member or make a donation to a team member or make a general donation to our [GA ADK Violets Team](#).

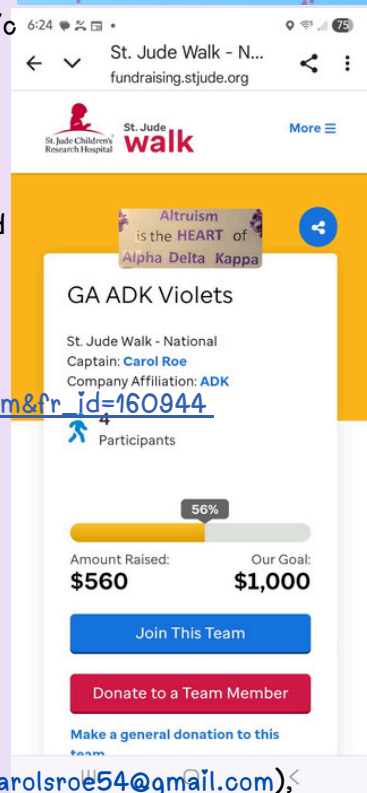
Remember, our 2026 Altruistic year began March 1, 2025, and will end February 28, 2026. Record the hours and monetary donations. Check with your Altruistic Chairman to record your information on her end of the year* Altruistic report. With a HEART for Altruism!

Carol

Don't forget to send pictures of your altruistic endeavors to me (carolsroe54@gmail.com),

State Historian Melissa (melissab.betapi@gmail.com) and

President Terri (tlsthompson27@gmail.com).



Alpha Delta Kappa Month

Good morning sisters -

Last year for AΔK month, we talked about **"Punch it like Agnes!"** I still encourage everyone to strive to be able to have a prompt to, thrown together "Punch Party" anywhere two or more current, potential new, or newly reinstated sisters are in order to remind folks that part of belong to a fraternal organization like Alpha Delta Kappa is it being mutually beneficial. As defined in Julia Kagan's updated article in Investopedia July 2020, a fraternal organization is *"a type of social organization where members associate for mutually beneficial purposes, such as social, professional, or honorary principles. Membership is often based on a common tie or the pursuit of a common objective, and these organizations typically have a substantial program of fraternal activities."* (<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/f/fraternal-organization.asp>).

As women in the teaching profession whether currently active or retired, we have a common bond through our gender, our profession, and the times in which we live. We have a calling to serve our students, support one another, and lay the groundwork for generations to follow. So, for this year's AΔK month, I encourage everyone to **"Pass it on like Hattie"**. One of our founders, Hattie Poppino was a classroom teacher and Librarian in her career. She was fundamental in the establishment of the policies and objective goals of AΔK. This AΔK month, help get the word out about the good things you do as a sister in the local chapter, what your local chapter does as part of the district, what your district does as part of the state, what our state does as part of the region, what our region does as part of International.

For anyone who remembers the line from the movie Field of Dreams, "Build it and he will come." Our organization is built, we may have to do some dusting and polishing to get the luster back, but once we start showing and telling people how we ENJOY being a sister, how its mutually beneficial to us, other ladies will come. Often in organizations, the focus for new members is a valid necessity, but it becomes such a focus that like a dog chasing its tail, we become dizzy and don't catch the tail. Let your participation and enjoyment in being a sister, be this Little Light of Mine. Let your light shine and **Pass it on like Hattie!** Send notes to colleagues and friends that express what a good time you are having. Share how you feel helping with altruism. Share what you all do to be there for your fellow sisters in education. Put it out there. Put it in the paper or run it on local news or the local cable access channel. Pass out cards/flyers at local events and remember chapter/districts can have a table at your local Walk to End Alzheimer's events with a registered team. Be Visible and **Pass it on like Hattie!**



Shannon Cole
AΔK Month Chair

Fraternity Education

Alpha Delta Kappa Badge

It is time to start the new school year sisters and with that we bring you, "Are you wearing your badge correctly?" We thought it would be a great idea to remind sisters how, when, and where to wear our beautiful Alpha Delta Kappa badges! During the meeting you could simply remind the sisters of these simple things about our treasured badges:

- Wear badge on the left side over your heart.
- Only wear one guard designating your office. Never wear two guards.
- Other pins go UNDER your official badge.
- Wear your ribbon or nametag on the right side (or opposite side).
- Do not wear your badge on the lapel.
- Do not wear your badge with formal wear.



We hope these helpful tips help remind the sisters of how to wear our beautiful badges. Please enjoy these photos of Annie & Karen wearing their badges.

Time to hit the books,
Annie and Karen
State Fraternity Ed Co-Chairs





Treasurer News

Lisa Tilley
State Treasurer
tilleylisa@bellsouth.net



We're entering into the busy season for treasurers with 990s, budgets, and dues all needing attention between now and January 1. Please refer to the chart below for upcoming due dates. I've also sent an email recently with forms you may need. Please let me know if you did not receive it. As always, thank you for all you do! It's a big job, and I know your chapter appreciates your hard work!



DUE DATE	FORM	TREASURER RESPONSIBLE	SEND TO
October 15	990-N (IRS e-postcard)	Chapter Treasurer	IRS and a copy to Lisa Tilley
November 1	Chapter Budget	Chapter Treasurer	Lisa Tilley
	District Budget	District Treasurer	Lisa Tilley
January 1	Chapter Roster	Chapter Treasurer	1. Copy to Lisa Tilley 2. Copy to State President Terri Thompson
	Payment Record		
January 1	Pay ITE Scholarship Contribution to International	Chapter Treasurer	Pay online at International website
January 1	GA 103: State Dues and Courtesy Form	Chapter Treasurer	Lisa Tilley
January 1	GA 102: State Scholarship Assessment Form	Chapter Treasurer	State VP for Scholarships Kellie Hubbard
January 1	District Dues - District Forms	Chapter Treasurer	Your District Treasurer
June 30	Chapter Financial Summary	Chapter Treasurer	International
	D-1: Annual Cash Flow Statement	District Treasurer	Email verification to Lisa Tilley Lisa Tilley



Disaster

On September 21, 2024 the Executive Board / Advisory Council of GA Alpha Delta Kappa held a meeting. At that meeting, we set up a table to take donations for Disaster Relief. In an appeal to the sisters present, Jewel said that all it would take was one hurricane to come through Savannah and we would need all the funds we could raise to help our sisters. Just 6 days later, on September 27th, Hurricane Helene roared through the state wreaking havoc from south Georgia up to Augusta and beyond. You came through with SO MANY donations! Georgia sisters came through with gracious hearts and open wallets so that other sisters could receive help without depleting our Disaster Relief funds.

Disaster Relief distributed 12 grants of \$500 each to Georgia sisters and 3 grants of \$250 each to neighboring states during the first year of the 2024-2026 biennium, 13 of them a direct result of Helene. In the second year of the biennium, 2 sisters have been awarded \$500 grants.

Disaster Relief is here to help. Of course, we encourage you to donate to this worthy cause, but we also encourage you to ask for help when you need it!! We will have a Disaster Relief table at all the district meetings this fall and spring. Once again, we will be accepting donations for chances on the Foldie Travel and Crossbody Bags that will be given away at the state convention next May. Thank you to Sherry McKie from Alpha Epsilon Chapter for donating the Foldie Travel and Crossbody Bags. There will be some travel size toiletries in the bag when the winner claims her prize.

We wish you a very successful 2025-2026 year ahead!!

In Sisterhood,

Jewel Hendrix
Disaster Relief Co-Chairman
jewel3adk@gmail.com

Angela Hobby
Disaster Relief Co-Chairman
aghobby1@comcast.net

Relief





Excellence in Education Procedure

Georgia is certainly proud of Dawn Hudson as the 2025 International EIE recipient. We would love for someone in **YOUR** chapter to be the next contender at the state, region and international level for 2025-2027. The application is open now and can be found at:

<https://apply.mykaleidoscope.com/program/Excellence2027>

The individual must be an active educator (employed) at the time of nomination and at the time the award is presented. The nomination can be made by an AΔK member or oneself. The nominator should reach out to ensure the sister is interested in applying. If she is, write up to 250 words about the nominee's worthiness and her contributions to education. The nominee has until November 1st to complete the application. I feel certain there are sisters in Georgia who would be happy to review a letter of nomination or an application if one so desires.

If you have questions, please reach out to me at sbonifay72@att.net or (229) 416-6195.
Suzi Bonifay--GA EIE Chair



**Nomination Deadline
November 1st**

**Education is the key to success in life, and teachers make a lasting
impact in the lives of their students.**

Solomon Ortiz



Let's Celebrate

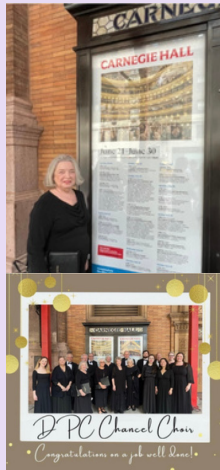
Congratulations Sisters!



Beta Mu member
April Swain
Rockdale County
Virtual Campus
Teacher of the Year



Alpha Iota member
Debbie Williams
Georgia Membership
Service Award 2024-2025



Iota Chapter member
Mimi Thurman and
Decatur Presbyterian
Church Chancel Choir
performed at
Carnegie Hall

Alpha Nu Chapter sisters made Lunches with Love for the ESP Summer Camp



Psi Chapter presented Dylan Jones
a check from the Athens District
Classroom Grant to by school supplies
for the classroom.



Beta Xi Chapter began their 2025-2026 year
off with a tour of Mossy Pond Lodge



Beta Upsilon Chapter's June Jaunt
included shopping at the Delano Farms
Market and lunch at the Farmhouse Restaurant



Iota Chapter sisters
donated to educational program
Parwana (English for Women)
with
Friends of Refugees



Beta Rho Chapter
hosted the
PowerMoves Kids
Fundraiser
of scripture-
based character
building
exercises that
encourages
movement and
positivity. The
funds were raised
for the
Alzheimer's
Association!



Congratulations to Georgia's Newest Violet Sisters
Beta Phi Chapter's Annie Brindle and Pam Rich

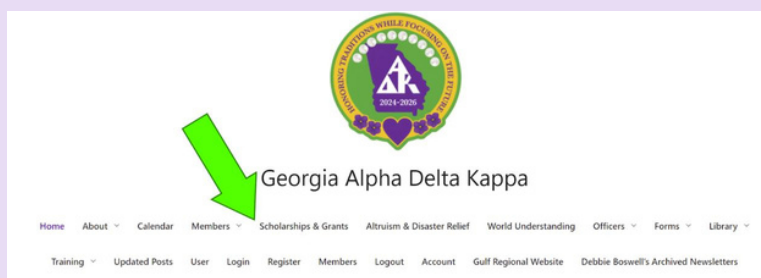


Scholarship Opportunities

by VP for Scholarships Kellie Hubbard

Georgia AΔK Website

To find out about scholarships and awards available on the GA AΔK state level, start out by going to the Georgia Alpha Delta Kappa website, <https://gaalphadeltakappa.org/>. Go to the Scholarships & Grants tab at the top of the page. There you will find everything you need to know about Georgia Scholarships.



State Scholarship Deadlines

2025-2026 Golden Isles District

Applications are currently available.

Applications are due to the chapter by **February 1**.

Chapter-Endorsed applications are due to VP for Scholarship by March 1.

Past State Presidents' Deadlines

Applications are currently available and are due to the VP for Scholarship by **February 1**.

International Opportunities & Deadlines

For Members of AΔK



For Members of AΔK



Deadline November 1st

Deadline October 1st

For Non-Members of AΔK



Deadline November 15th

2025



Georgia Alpha Delta Kappa “Longest Day” Team

Our GA ALPHA DELTA KAPPA TEAM is the #2 team behind AΔK HQ with \$35,329. We are headed towards the FINISH Line for the #1 Team! Two Chapters who Qualify to receive a donation for their Chapter Scholarship Funds.

Together we are advancing the care, support and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association! #ENDALZ

YOUR PASSION
CAN HELP
FIGHT
ALZHEIMER'S

TOP 10 TEAMS

Team Name	Amount
Alpha Delta Kappa...	\$44,119
GEORGIA ALPHA ...	\$35,329
Together We Can-...	\$28,448
Ohio Alpha Delta ...	\$17,089
NC Alpha Delta Ka...	\$17,006
California Cares	\$11,511
VA Violets	\$10,546
Heartbeat of Kent...	\$9,358
Maryland Black Ey...	\$9,267
Green Mountain M...	\$7,860

TOP 10 PARTICIPANTS

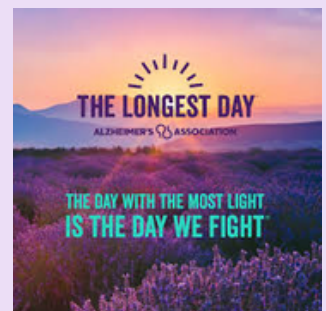
Participant Name	Amount
Pippy Rogers	\$18,740
Bettie Carter	\$9,358
Jeanne Desilets	\$7,860
Deborah Price	\$5,187
Mary Ey	\$5,011
GA Gamma Delta ...	\$4,675
John Dell Hucabee	\$4,320
Alpha Phi Chapter...	\$4,250
SC Alpha Psi Chap...	\$4,200
Dancing Margarita...	\$3,708

FUNDRAISING BY STATES

[SORT BY NUMBER OF TEAMS](#)

[SORT BY FUNDRAISING AMOUNT](#)

State	Number of Teams	Amount
1. MO	2	\$45,988.00
2. GA	2	\$35,329.00
3. VA	11	\$31,451.00
4. SC	1	\$28,448.00
5. OH	1	\$17,089.00
6. NC	1	\$17,006.00
7. CA	4	\$12,334.00
8. KY	1	\$9,358.00
9. MD	1	\$9,267.00
10. VT	1	\$7,860.00



2025 -2026 International Teacher Education (ITE)

The ITE Scholars are a highly qualified group of women who are the recipients of both the Fulbright and Alpha Delta Kappa scholarships. Three of the scholars, Shehneela Naz from Bangladesh, Meri Kadagidze, from the country of Georgia and Alejandra Coz who graduated from Harvard in May attended the International Convention this summer.



Meri Kadagidze, Shehneela Naz and Alejandra Coz represented the ITE scholars beautifully at the Educational Symposium. They shared their educational and personal experiences as well as their goals when they return to their countries. Many Alpha Delta Kappa sisters enjoyed meeting them at the International Convention in Austin, Texas.

Welcoming the ITE Scholars for 2025-2026

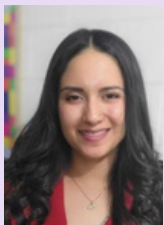
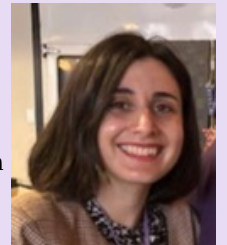
2025-2026 International Teacher Education Scholars



Shehneela Naz
University of Illinois
Country - Bangladesh
Birthday - December 5th
Second Year Scholar



Meri Kadagidze
University of Washington
Country - Georgia
Birthday - September 24th
Second Year Scholar



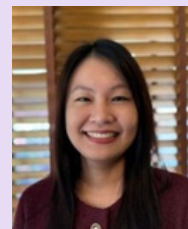
Emma Martinez
University of Pennsylvania
Country - El Salvador
Birthday - August 24th



Hengly Te
University of Nebraska
Country - Cambodia
Birthday - April 9th



Nondumiso Thango
Syracuse University
Country - South Africa
Birthday - January 13th



Sangsupa Penrach
University of Washington
Country - Thailand
Birthday - May 4th



Thembisile Buthelezi
University of Delaware
Country - South Africa
Birthday - June 6th

Alpha Delta Kappa members can find contact information for these outstanding scholars in the directory under ITE on the Alpha Delta Kappa website.

Update on Georgia's 2023-2025 ITE Scholar Sarah Pradoto

Sarah became an honorary member of Georgia Alpha Delta Kappa at the Spring Executive Board Meeting before FUN Day. She is now back in Georgia for the 2025-2026 academic year at the University of Georgia to pursue her doctorate in Early Childhood Education. She will be working as a research assistant in the UGA Education Department. If you would like to send her a card, her contact information is: Sarah Tamimi Pradoto
105 College Station Road
Building C, Apt. 106
Athens, GA 30605



Highlights of the Decatur District

Beta Chapter
"Growing Future Leaders"

Alpha Eta Chapter
"Connecting the Past
to the Future"

Betta Kappa Chapter

"Bridging a Path to Adventure"



Iota Chapter
"Building Connections"

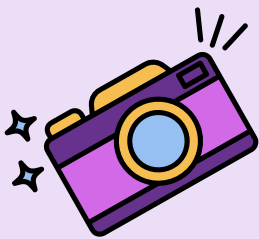
Alpha Psi Chapter
"Be The Light"

Beta Mu Chapter
"Building Sisterhood,
Building the Future"

Beta Sigma Chapter
"Preserving Our Past to Ensure a Brilliant Future"

Do You Know?

- 1) The Decatur District is part of Tri-District which meets with the Atlanta and Marietta Districts for their Fall District Meeting.
- 2) Beta Sigma member Kathy De Cano presented at the international convention in Austin of her visit to Project C.H.E.A.R. in Babati, Tanzania.
- 3) Two Decatur District chapters celebrated anniversaries this past year - Beta Chapter 70 years and Beta Sigma 50 years.
- 4) The Decatur District will be the host district for the 2026 GA State Convention.
- 5) The Decatur District has two members on the State Advisory Council, District Chairman Mary Greco from Beta Mu Chapter and State Cornucopia Committee Chairman Melissa Kinard from Beta Sigma Chapter.



Historian Melissa Blankenship



Please submit photos of your chapter meetings, events, and altruism projects!



By Text
478-397-5396



By Email
melissab.betapi@gmail.com

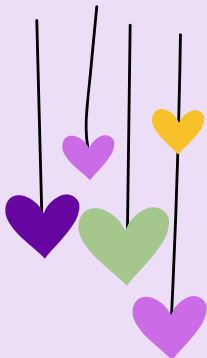
Chaplain's Corner

by State Chaplain Janet Robison

When a member of your chapter joins the Omega Chapter please send the following information to me and your district chairman:

Omega Sister's Name, Photo
Chapter and District Name
Date of when she joined the Omega Chapter
A link for her obituary

Thank you!



Heart Strings of Love and Care

Past International President, Past Georgia State President &
Gamma Delta sister June Bellamy - recovering from broken femur

Past State President & Alpha Beta sister Debbie Clark - mother's health & care

Dalton District Co-Chairman & Beta Upsilon sister Mary Jones - recovering at home

Gamma Epsilon sister Lea Mazzucco - rehab recovery from stoke #fightleafight

Sisters in Chapters who have lost sisters to the Omega Chapter

Beta Eta sister Rowena Lovell - Omega Chapter

Tau sister Joanne Alford - Omega Chapter

Beta Sigma sister Lorraine Ziecker - Omega Chapter



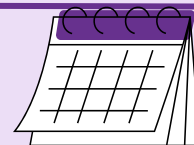
Honorary GA Member Sarah Pradoto - September 4th

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the Heart." -

Helen Keller



Important Dates



September 1	Regional Officer Candidates Application Opens
September 20	Fall Executive Board / Advisory Council Meeting - Macon
September 21	World Alzheimer's Day
Month of October	Alpha Delta Kappa Month
October 1	GA 101 Chapter Calendar of Meetings Form for 2025-2026 Due to State President Terri Thompson
	Classroom Grant Deadline
	<i>Kappan</i> submissions Deadline for December publication
October 11	Columbus District Fall Meeting - LaGrange
October 15	990-N IRS E-Postcard Deadline - Online submission to IRS
	Regional Mini Fall Scholarship Application Deadline
October 18	Chapter Needs Assessment (CNA) Reflection Conversations to State
October 25	Tri-District Fall Meeting (Atlanta, Decatur, & Marietta Districts) - Griffin
November 1	Augusta District Fall Meeting - Augusta
	Chapter and District Budgets Due to State Treasurer Lisa Tilley
	Excellence in Education Award Nominations Deadline
	Athens District Fall Meeting - Gainesville
November 8	Dalton District Fall Meeting - Rock Springs



GA AΔK Shirts

We still have a GA purple shirt available.

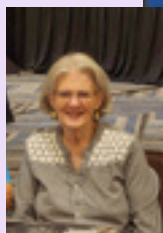
1 Extra Large
\$30.00

Make check out to GA Alpha Delta Kappa.
Mail to President Terri Thompson

All money will be donated to the
Ronald McDonald Houses of Georgia.



Conway Blankenship
International President
conwayadk@gmail.com



Kay Spriggs
Gulf Region President
kayspriggs1530@gmail.com