



The Heartbeat of Georgia Alpha Delta Kappa

by Terri Thompson

January 2026

Volume II

Issue 7



How time is passing! We say good-bye to 2025 and welcome 2026! This biennium is on the down swing with only five months left. As we begin January, most think of the new year as a time to start over, refresh, reset and begin again. But in Alpha Delta Kappa, it signifies the last half of the AΔK calendar year where activities and projects are reviewed, assessed and completed from goals made earlier.

What a variety of successes Georgia Alpha Delta Kappa has accomplished! Chapters and sisters have stepped up by supporting the many altruistic projects throughout the state, the districts, and International. Georgia AΔK saw it's first International Excellence in Education recipient Dawn Hudson named. FUN Day was a wonderful day of sisterhood, altruism and celebrating! Sisters donated 2,834 hygiene items, school supplies and toys for the Adventure Bags C2O project. This inspired sisters to complete the first year of the biennium with a positive outlook for the future.

Other accomplishments: Georgia AΔK was Team #2 for Alzheimer's The Longest Day raising \$35, 329. This could not have been accomplished without everyone's support. Georgia AΔK co-sponsored several International Bylaw Amendments which passed for the International Convention. In addition, Sisters helped those who were affected by natural disasters with monetary gifts. Georgia was happy to host an International Teacher Education Scholar, Sarah Tamimi Pradoto at the University of Georgia for the 2024-2025 academic year. She is now an Honorary Georgia AΔK member.

Wow! Georgia AΔK has some new traditions to add and celebrate at our 2026 State Convention. Make plans now to attend the convention May 1-3, 2026 in Atlanta.

Thank you Georgia AΔK sisters for your commitment and dedication to Georgia Alpha Delta Kappa!

And as we honor our traditions, let's remember to "Focus on the Future" in Georgia Alpha Delta Kappa!

Terri



2024-2026 Executive Board

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| PRESIDENT | Terri Thompson tlsthompson27@gmail.com 478-224-1287 |
| PRESIDENT-ELECT | Pat Smith adkpjs97@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 |

Membership News

2026 is full of NEW ADVENTURES and POSSIBILITIES!

A NEW YEAR may present us with unknown challenges. Which means we will have opportunities to ensure that current and new chapter members are WELCOMED, INFORMED AND INVOLVED!

Every year new teachers arrive in many schools in January. Think about checking with schools in your area to see if they have new staff! Maybe send them a small WELCOME note or treat. Invite THEM to check you and Alpha Delta Kappa OUT!

The clock is ticking to be included in a drawing for 2 GIFTED MEMBERSHIPS for the months of December and January! ALL NEW members or RENSTATED members joining December 1 - January 31, 2026 will have a chance to win. Look for the winners in February!

Carolyn and I are only a click away if you need help or suggestions moving forward with Membership. Lots of new ideas (tried and true) are floating around!

We would love to brainstorm any that you are thinking about as well. Isn't SHARING the Main idea in Education.

If you have chosen a WORD for the year or even for the month, email it to us and we will share these in February! Great ideas come from sharing and mentoring!

We would love to have some of YOUR ideas to share~
Happy NEW YEAR to all, Carolyn and Debbie

Fraternity Education

Happy New Year sisters!!! We are excited for 2026.

We hope everyone is going into the new year merry and bright!

We are sharing with you "A New Year of Giving."

This is a fun activity that will collect money each month from the sisters (in small amounts) and can be donated to a local altruistic project or an altruistic project your sisters support.

This is a cute and easy way to get sisters involved in giving back.

To access this activity go directly to our state website Fraternity Education page (under Members) where we have posted a copy here: <https://gaalphadeltakappa.org/fraternity-education/>



NEW Year SAME us,
Annie and Karen
State Fraternity Ed Co-Chairs





Deadline to Apply January 9th

Educators Are Heroes Membership Grant

2026 Winter / Spring Cohort



Focus: Celebrating educators and building relationships with potential members.

Funds: The funds for this grant will be given to chapters who are committed to having an event for potential members **prior to May 15, 2026**. Chapters chosen will receive a check of **\$75 to buy items for their event**. Funds for this grant will be sent **after chapter member(s) attend one of the Training Sessions**. **Checks will be mailed to the chapter treasurer after the Training.**

The International Membership Committee (IMC) encourages the use of the relationship-building conversations to help sisters find what potential educators might be looking for in membership. As part of this grant, chapter leaders will attend a Training Session via ZOOM to learn how to plan a social event that focuses on relationship-building and value. This training will also provide an opportunity to brainstorm ideas with leaders across our organization.

* First priority for this grant will be given to those chapters who have not previously received the Educators are Heroes Grant. All chapters are encouraged to apply!

TIMELINE

January 9 - JotForm closes. Chapters will be notified of acceptance within one week.

Training Session - Thursday, January 15 @ 6:30 pm CT or Thursday, January 22 @ 5:00 pm CT -

At least one chapter member must attend at least one training. All interested chapter members are welcome to attend.

- Meeting agenda:
 - Tenets and value of relationship-building conversations
 - Planning for and executing a social event that focuses on relationship-building and values
 - Strategies for following up with potential members
- Checks will be sent out after the meeting and should arrive the week of February 2
- S/P/N leaders from the chapters involved are encouraged to attend

Check-In Support Session 1 - Wednesday, March 25 @ 6:30 pm CT - Material will be reviewed and chapters will have the opportunity to share their plans for a prospective member social, ask questions, and gather ideas from other chapters in the cohort.

Check-In Support Session 2 - Sunday, April 19 @ 6:30 pm CT - Chapters will share the status of their prospective member social, get questions answered, and gather ideas/support from other sisters.

May 15 - Deadline to have the social event for prospective members

Reflection Session - Wednesday, May 27 @ 6:30 pm CT - One or more chapter members are asked to attend this event to share their experience and to gather ideas and insight from other chapters.

- Meeting agenda:
 - Chapters share about the prospective member social
 - Share successes and challenges
 - Strategies for implementing the New Member Onboarding process

The 2026 Educators are Heroes Grant Application JotForm can be found on the international website > Chapter Officers > Chapter Training Tools or by clicking the link below (must be signed into the website).

<https://form.jotform.com/253155328587162>

Reach out to Kathy Beatty (kathybeattyadk@gmail.com),
International Vice President for Membership with questions.

Meet the 2025-2026

International Teacher Scholars
Evolving Together
at the ITE Webinar
January 24, 2026



Zoom information on AΔK News and on AΔK Connect

Enjoy the panel discussion as these extraordinary women respond to questions about their culture, education and goals.



Meri Kadagidze
University of Washington



Hengly Te
University Nebraska
Lincoln



Thembisile Buthelez
University of Delaware



Shehneela Naz
University of Illinois,
Champaign-Urbana



Nondumiso Thango
Syracuse University



Emma Alfaro-Martinez
University of Pennsylvania



Sangsupa Penrach
University of Washington

DO WHAT YOUTM
LOVE TO END ALZ

ALZHEIMER'S  ASSOCIATION®

SISTERS! IF YOU HAVEN'T JOINED OUR "NEW" DWYL TEAM, NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME!
IT'S SIMPLE. Just CLICK below on the word WEBSITE and it will take you to DIRECTIONS
for OUR Own Alpha Delta Kappa ALZHEIMER'S ASSOC. WEBSITE.

START with #1 to REGISTER!

BE SURE TO USE GA OR GEORGIA and Your Name or Chapter Name ON THE FIRST NAME LINE. ON THE LAST NAME LINE enter YOUR NAME or JUST LAST NAME if you used your FIRST NAME on the FIRST NAME LINE. EXAMPLES:

FIRST NAME: GA BETA IOTA or FIRST NAME: GA PIPPY
LAST NAME: PIPPY ROGERS or LAST NAME: ROGERS

IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE GEORGIA or GA First so our state gets a total in donations raised.
FEEL FREE TO CALL ME or EMAIL IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS!

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO TO #END ALZ

pippyrogersadk@gmail.com or 678-378-2801

Altruism in Action



Gamma Gamma Chapter sisters donated a bike and gifts to the Columbia County Foundation for Children



Delta sisters volunteering at school book fair



Beta Chi Chapter donated toys for the children at the Macon Ronald McDonald House

Look at these HEARTS for altruism projects!



Beta Theta Chapter sisters wrapped donated Christmas gifts at Wynnton Arts Academy in Columbus



Beta Phi Chapter sisters donated "Secret Santa" gifts for the Murry Wood Nursing Facility and made/handed out reindeer food for the children at "Santa in the Park"



Alpha Epsilon Chapter furnished gifts and food baskets to Candyland Christmas and Hope Women's Center



Georgia Alpha Delta Kappa Cares Altruistically

Happy New Year, Sisters!

Altruism is definitely alive and well in the Hearts of Georgia Alpha Delta Kappa sisters. I have thoroughly enjoyed each and every picture, post, and conversation about the many unique and creative altruistic projects in which our Sisters are engaged. We are keeping President Terri's motto: "Honoring Traditions While Focusing on the Future." My children often tease me about a "checklist of things we always do at Christmas." Yes, there are certain activities and foods we enjoy, but we always find something fresh and new to add to our future traditions.

We are entering the "busy reporting season." It's almost time to document our altruistic endeavors. As soon as our Gulf and International Altruistic Chairmen send information, I will pass it along to you. I will be sending directions to District Chairmen and Chapter Presidents who will, in turn, share with each Chapter's Altruistic Chairman. Always remember, I am an email, phone call and/or text away, when questions arise.

(carolsroe54@gmail.com; (478) 290-1050. Remember to state who you are and your chapter!



Reminder: Send pictures of your altruistic endeavors to me (carolsroe54@gmail.com), State Historian Melissa (melissab.betapi@gmail.com) and President Terri (tlsthompson27@gmail.com).

With a HEART for Altruism, Carol Roe, State Altruistic Chairman



Treasurer News

Lisa Tilley
State Treasurer
tilleylisa@bellsouth.net



Renew/ Pay Your Membership Dues Now to Avoid Late Fees

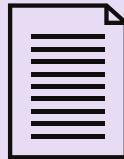
As you know, all members may now go online and pay the **\$40 International dues** at <https://alphadeltakappa.org>. International has fixed the issue with the online payment. As chapter treasurers, please also remember to pay the required chapter **\$20 ITE fee**.

Let me know if you have any questions!

| | | | |
|-----------|---|-------------------|---|
| January 1 | Chapter Roster Payment Record | Chapter Treasurer | 1. Copy to Lisa Tilley 2. Copy to State President Terri Thompson |
| 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 |

Reminder
Chapter Treasurers - Remember to send a copy of your chapter roster to State Treasurer Lisa Tilley and a copy to State President Terri Thompson by **January 31** either via email or USPS.

Chapter Roster



DISASTER RELIEF



Georgia and the mainland Gulf states had an uneventful fall hurricane season. That was not the case for Jamaica with widespread destruction all over the island. Relief efforts are still being planned. You may send donations marked for Jamaica to our state treasurer. Thank you to those who have already made donations.

The State Disaster Relief Committee will continue accepting donations for chances on the Foldie Travel and Crossbody Bags at all ten spring district meetings. The bags will be given away at the state convention in May. Be sure to bring your address labels to place on the tickets so you do not have to write your name and chapter many times.

Thank you to Sherry McKie from Alpha Epsilon Chapter for her generous donation of the Foldie Travel and Crossbody Bags. As a special treat, there will be some travel size toiletries in the bags when the winner claims her prize at convention.



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

In Sisterhood,

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

Candidate Qualifications

A New Year!

A New Adventure in Georgia Alpha Delta Kappa!

This new year of 2026 is a time when we can look to the future and the possibilities for what we can accomplish.

Georgia Alpha Delta Kappa needs you!

There are so many of our sisters who would be a wonderful addition to our State Executive Board for the 2026-2028 biennium.

We are looking for sisters who are excited about this organization and want to help lead it in the next biennium. Please consider offering for one of the offices: State President-Elect, VP for Membership, VP for Scholarships, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, Historian, or Sergeant-at-Arms.

For eligibility requirements and duties of elected officers please read the current **Bylaws of Alpha Delta Kappa** (Article VII, Section 2).

This is an opportunity for each of you to learn and grow in this organization. Don't hesitate to step up and be part of our leadership team for Georgia Alpha Delta Kappa. There are sisters all around the state to support you, lend a hand, or answer any question you may have.

The deadline to submit your Candidate Information Form is February 14, 2026.
It will be here before you know it!

Please contact Donna Smith for more information: dsmithlong@gmail.com



2026 Georgia Alpha Delta Kappa State Convention
May 1-3, 2026

“A Timeless Tradition: GA AΔK’s Pearls and Violets Celebration!”
at the Atlanta Marriott Perimeter Center



Let's celebrate all the
successes of
Georgia Alpha Delta Kappa!

Let's Celebrate

Congratulations Sisters!



Classroom Grant

The Classroom Grant is designed to provide funds to assist creative, innovative Alpha Delta Kappa (ADK) educators with the cost of materials and services that will enhance classroom lessons.



Congrats!

Gulf Recipients

Taryn Brodie, Alabama Alpha Iota
Mikele Ford, Florida Gamma Pi

Lori Blevins, Georgia Alpha Sigma

\$400

49 Grants!

Jennifer Smith
numerous poems and stories have been published



Alpha Epsilon Chapter sisters' Christmas dinner



Holiday Celebrations with Sisters

Sigma Chapter sisters' Christmas brunch & auction



Delta Chapter sisters' Christmas auction for scholarships



Alpha Phi Chapter sisters playing Christmas games



Beta Epsilon Chapter sisters



Beta Phi Chapter sisters' Christmas luncheon



Lambda Chapter sisters at Festival of Trees



2025 Fall Regional Mini Scholarship Recipients

Gulf
Lori Carnine, GA Alpha Rho
Mary McCormick, FL Beta Psi
Deborah Scheble, FL Gamma Upsilon

Northwest
Lesa Meath, AK Gamma
Paige Zeeck, MT Alpha

North Central
Shanel Eatherton, NE PI
Jennifer Mulholland, IL Alpha Nu
Rachel Terlop, IA Alpha Delta

Southwest
Kathleen O'Rourke, CA Gamma Beta

South Central
Sara Hays, AR Alpha Rho
Rhonda Peters, TX Beta Chi
Natalie Precise, MO Alpha Epsilon
Stacy Redding, TX Beta Omicron

Northeast
Charlene Krecota, PA PI
Alicia Somers, NJ Kappa

Southeast
Sharon Brasher, TN Beta Zeta
Andrea Dorsey, VA Gamma Kappa
Wendy Dyal, VA Zeta
Linda Hume, VA Beta Episilon
Amy Lamb, VA Gamma Alpha
Jenelle McLeod, VA Alpha Iota
Felicia Messina-D'Haiti, MD Nu
Rebecca Newman, VA Gamma Alpha

Learn more [HERE!](#)

Georgia Scholarship Opportunities

by VP for Scholarships Kellie Hubbard

REMINDER

Deadlines are fast approaching.

State Scholarship

- **Golden Isles District Chapters** should have the application & directions
- **Feb. 1, 2026** - Applications & documents due to chapters from applicants
- **March 1, 2026** - Completed application & documents due to VP for Scholarship
- **April 2026** - Scholarship committee will approve applications & recommend winners to State Executive Board for approval.
- **May/June 2026** - Awards will be mailed

Past State Presidents' Scholarship

- Scholarship applications available now on the state website open to any member
- **Feb. 1, 2026** - Deadline for applications to be submitted to the VP for Scholarship



International Opportunities & Deadlines



Deadline January 31st



Deadline February 15th



Deadline February 15th

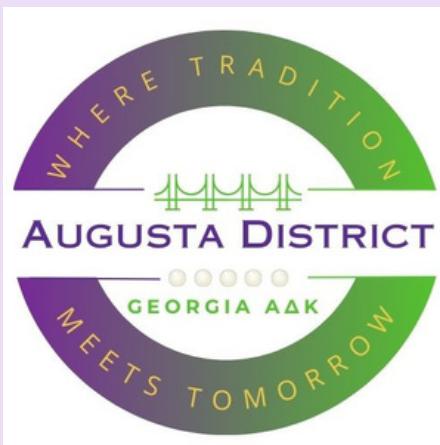


Deadline March 1

Highlights of the Augusta District

Omicron Chapter
"Remembering Traditions,
While Embracing the
Future"

Sigma Chapter
"Keeping Traditions -
Changing the Future"



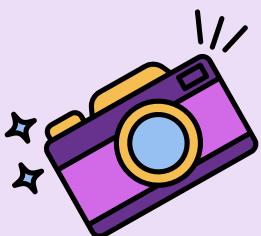
Alpha Epsilon Chapter
"Inspired by Traditions;
Shaping the Future"

Alpha Zeta Chapter
"Connecting to the Future
through Sisterhood"

Gamma Gamma Chapter
"Bridging Traditions to the Future"

Do You Know?

- 1) Sherry McKie from Alpha Epsilon Chapter in the Augusta District donated the Foldie bags that are being offered for the State Disaster Relief fundraiser.
- 2) Alpha Epsilon Chapter in the Augusta District was featured in the June 2025 A&K Kappan.
- 3) The Augusta District has three members on the State Advisory Council - State Disaster Relief Co-Chairman Angela Hobby from Alpha Epsilon, Augusta District Chairman Lynn Cato from Sigma Chapter and Past State President Sandy Bailey from Gamma Gamma Chapter.
- 4) The Augusta District co-hosted the 2024 GA State Convention.
- 5) Five chapters make up the Augusta District which stretches to the South Carolina border East of Metro Atlanta, Central GA and North of Statesboro.



Historian Melissa Blankenship

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



Cornucopia Reminder:
Chapters submit pictures to the state
archives by April 1!



By Text
478-397-5396



By Email
melissab.betapi@gmail.com

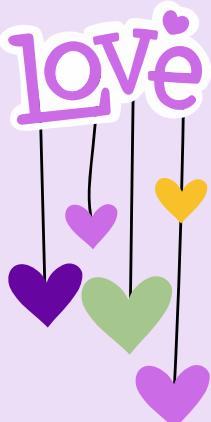
Chaplain's Corner

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 if possible
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 State President Hazel Stanton - ER visit and illness

Dalton District Co-Chairman Gloria Nealey's husband Jimmy hospitalized for pneumonia

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

Chapter Sisters who have lost sisters to the Omega Chapter

Alpha Eta Chapter sister Lynn Carnes - Omega Chapter



Congratulations!

to State Courtesy / Hospitality Chairman Erin Neal on her marriage to Robert Bauerle
Georgia AΔK will miss Erin, but wish her the best!

“A loving heart is the beginning of all knowledge” - Thomas Carlyle



Mark
YOUR
Calendar



Gulf/South Central Regional Conference



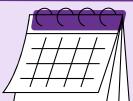
July 20-22, 2026
at the JW Marriott
614 Canal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana



2027 AΔK International Convention



Important Dates



| | |
|-------------|--|
| January 1 | International, State, District & Chapter Dues, ITE and Fees Deadline <i>Kappan</i> Submissions Deadline (March publication) |
| January 9 | Educators Are Heroes Grant Application JotForm Deadline |
| January 24 | GA District Chairman / Chairman-Elect Meeting - Zoom |
| | ITE Virtual Gathering |
| January 31 | Regional Professional Development Scholarship Application Deadline International Dues Submitted Online or Postmark after January 31 will incur a \$5 per member late fee Georgia State Dues Postmarked after January 31 will incur a \$1 per member late fee |
| February 7 | Heart of Georgia Spring District Meeting - Cochran |
| February 15 | Agnes Robertson Global Outreach (ARGO) Scholarship Application Deadline Fine Arts Grant Application Deadline |
| February 21 | Albany Spring District Meeting - Cordele |
| February 28 | Golden Isles Spring District Meeting - Statesboro |
| March 1 | Legacy Scholarship Application Deadline Making a Better World Initiative Deadline |
| March 7 | Suspension for Nonpayment of Dues - Intl/State/District/Chapter |
| March 14 | Atlanta Spring District Meeting - Tucker |
| March 15 | Augusta Spring District Meeting - Appling |
| March 21 | Chapter and S/P/N Altruistic Report JotForm Submission Deadline |
| March 21 | Marietta Spring District Meeting - Power Springs |
| March 28 | Decatur Spring District Meeting - Duluth |



GA ADK Shirts

If you would like to order a purple shirt, please email Immediate Past State President Debbie Boswell debbieb.adk@gmail.com

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