

## Southern District Conference 03/11/2023

### Opening

Good Morning Southern Sisters. My name is Mari Page and I am your California State Chaplain.

This morning, as I was walking around this beautiful venue admiring the lovely decorations and visiting with you, I was struck with the notion of how fortunate we are to be able to meet in person again. It has been too long since we were able to connect with our Southern District Sisters from differing chapters.

When I received my invitation with the theme “Moving Forward Into The Future”, with its clever suitcase design, I thought about the similarity between Alpha Delta Kappa’s journey, to when we make our own personal plans for travel and getting prepared for a trip.

When I was young traveling with my parents to many exciting and foreign places I didn’t have to worry about making any travel arrangements, planning, or even what to bring and pack in my suitcase, Mom and Dad took care of all of it.

However, when you’re an adult this all changes. Now when we pick a travel destination it usually involves a lot of planning on our part ahead of time. We have to decide what sights we want to see and how we are going to accomplish seeing all of them. Questions arise in our minds, will we take a tour or perhaps travel independently, all important considerations for us to make. As the travel date nears new challenges occur..... what will we take, shoes, clothing, a jacket or perhaps an umbrella, more things to consider. Finally, were ready

to pack our suitcase with the needed items and if you are like me you take more what you need. When all is accomplished we are off on our journey to have a wonderful experience trying new adventures.

All of Chapters in the Southern District are on a combined journey “Moving Forward Into The Future “ with Alpha Delta Kappa. You and your leaders are helping plan for the trip our organization will take during the years ahead. Your planning for the future is similar to how we plan for our own personal trips.

You, Southern District Sisters, have packed your suitcases and are now ready for journey ahead. These suitcases are filled with “New Ideas and Experiences, Wisdom, and Creativity”, all things your chapter sisters have developed over many combined years of membership in Alpha Delta Kappa.

If we take a quick peek inside these suitcases we would see many excellent ideas. In one suitcase we can find the commitment and encouragement of chapter leaders in the use of technology for all members. Snuggled next to that in the case we have our continued need to meet in person as well as staying connected with Zoom if some members require it.

In another of our suitcases we find it filled with wonderful ideas members can use to stay current with Alpha Delta Kappa, ideas such as using the website and Connect. Nestled in this same suitcase, next to the ideas, is our ability to stay connected and current with our membership through friendship and sisterhood.

In our last suitcase we will packing in ideas that promote awareness of the world around us. This awareness is an important thing to pack for those of us that are retired, as well as those still teaching, as there is a call for action in our country and the world to help solve problems we as a community are facing.

Using what we have packed in our Alpha Delta Kappa Suitcase is important for the continued excellence of our shared organization. When we travel on our own personal trips, we rely on what is in our suitcases. The same is true on our journey as we “Step Into The Future”.

Remember the suitcases we carry contain the experiences and knowledge needed to face the certain challenges of today. We all must share our talents and time to help one another as we work together. This working together is important to insure the continued growth and survival of our important organization. Are you willing to use what you have packed in your Alpha Delta Kappa suitcase to insure the continued success of our organization as we celebrate our 75th Anniversary? Only you know the answer and I hope the answer is yes.

## Closing

Today, at the Southern District Conference we have enjoyed reconnecting with old friends and meeting new sisters who share our values in Alpha Delta Kappa. Importantly, we have listened to a speaker who has told us about a serious subject that is unfortunately affecting many today in our country and around the world. As educators we need to continue to have a greater awareness of this deeply concerning topic.

Aside from the seriousness of the speaker on Human Trafficking, we still have enjoyed our time together talking, listening, learning more about our organization, as well as having fun with one another.

This afternoon as we leave to go our separate ways, we need to continue to think about how we are all connected in Alpha Delta Kappa and how each of us has a contribution to make. We know we have packed our suitcases well, and are prepared to “Step Into The Future”. The success of our trip is determined by all of us working together to insure our organization’s progress in the years ahead.