

**Southern District Conference 03/09/2024**

## **Opening Thoughts**

Good Morning Southern Sisters,

I am looking forward to being with all of you as we have fun connecting and learning today at our conference.

I know you all have seen President Rosena's California State Banner, it is up here in front, and I know you have noticed its beautiful nature scene, where she asks us to "***Step Into the Future***" with her.

When I learned a speaker from the Wildlands Conservatory would be with us today to talk, I thought how well these two topics tied in together; her nature scene and words, and the importance of conserving nature for future generations. All of us are "***Stepping Into the Future***" in our personal lives, as well as our Alpha Delta Kappa ones, I know the importance of conservation is a concern to us all.

In my life time I have seen many changes in Southern California as I am sure many of you have. I can remember as a child riding a long in the back seat of my parents 1953 green Chevy with the windows down. We had no air conditioning in those days. We passed mile after mile of fertile farm land and sweet smelling citrus groves. We were driving on narrow two lane roads with out much traffic. We never imagined the congested freeway systems that have covered the land with miles of concrete and bumper to bumper cars. Cities did not run together like they do today, each city had its own downtown section where you would gather and shop. Those spaces of empty land or farms and orchards have pretty much disappeared under commercial or housing developments that have blanketed the Southern California landscape.

As educators and perhaps parents and grandparents, we realize the importance of protecting the world for future generations by the conservation of open lands that are still available. We know the importance of conservation in protecting wild life and promoting biodiversity. Environmental conservation is important in managing our natural resources because a healthy environment is essential for our own health and that of our descendants. I am excited to learn about the Wildlands Conservatory and the local region. We all want to protect the wild lands and areas such as the one portrayed in President Rosena's banner.

As we enjoy the events of today, keep in mind the part our lives play both in our wonderful organization Alpha Delta Kappa, and also the environment around us, as we continue to “*Step Into the Future*”.

### **Closing Thoughts**

What a wonderful morning we have had with our Southern District Sisters in this historic 1922 building. Preservation in action In Riverside. Today we have enjoyed our time together, talking, listening, learning and just having fun. We have listened to speakers who have informed us about the Wildlands Conservatory and our organization.

When we leave today, we need to continue to remember the importance of conservation in our lives. We also need to remember the importance of working together in Alpha Delta Kappa. Each of us as individuals are important to the strength of our organization, but we all must work as a team if we are to succeed in the years ahead. We need to continue to “**Step Into The Future**” to embrace the vision and mission of Alpha Delta Kappa to continue make it an organization we are proud to belong to.