

Sibling Revelry

California Alpha Delta Kappa

Volume 2 Issue 1 Summer 2025



President's Message



We have officially begun the second year of the 2024-2026 biennium. Time has certainly flown! During the past year, I was able to meet many California sisters when I attended four in-person District Conferences, the Northwest/Southwest Conference in Bellevue, Washington, the International Convention in Austin, Texas, and untold in-person and Zoom meetings with the state board and other committees. I am looking forward to our next year and all that it holds.

President-Elect Update

It gives me great pleasure to announce that we now have a California State President-Elect. Donna McCartney, a Gamma Nu sister, has graciously agreed to take on this position.



Donna is a former Pennsylvania State President and served on the California State Board as both Vice President for Membership and Chaplain. She is highly qualified, enthusiastic, and a definite asset to the California Board. We are very lucky to have her join us.



Mark Your Calendars

The State Convention Is Coming!

The 36th Alpha Delta Kappa California State Convention will be held **May 1-3, 2026** in charming Old Town Clovis. Clovis is located just east of Fresno in the Central Valley. Old Town Clovis is known for its antique shops and buildings, dining facilities, Farmers' Market, and more. It is also famous for its rodeo and western way of life. Its motto is The Gateway to the Sierras.

Meetings, the Omega Ceremony, and the banquet will be held in the beautiful Clovis Veterans' Memorial Building located at 808 4th Street, Clovis, CA 93612. There are several hotels conveniently located nearby in which sisters may stay.

Plan on a fun and friendly stay with your Alpha Delta Delta Kappa sisters. And be on the lookout for more details coming soon.

State Officer Candidate Applications

If there's an upcoming convention, there must be State Officer positions opening up. Just say YES and apply to join the 2026-2028 State Executive Board. Your sisters will surround you with love and support, so don't be afraid to try something new. You will learn to appreciate Alpha Delta Kappa on a whole new level and will meet sisters by choice who will truly become your forever friends.

To find an application and more information, go to the California website (adkcalif.org) and click on State Conventions. Applications should be sent to Gamma Mu sister Mari Page (adkmari.page@gmail.com) by December 5, 2025.

Nominations for State Altruistic Project

Another State Convention requirement is choosing a new State Altruistic Project. Look around your area and you might be surprised to find an organization that would be a perfect choice for our famous Alpha Delta Kappa altruistic generosity. For more information, contact State Altruistic Chair and Zeta sister Susan Blough (susanblough@gmail.com), or look on the California website (adkcalif.org). Nominations are due to Susan by November 1, 2025.

Resolve to Write a Resolution

Got a great idea that will make Alpha Delta Kappa even better? State Conventions are the time to turn those great ideas into reality via the resolution process. On the California website (adkcalif.org) in the State Conventions section, you can find directions and hints to help you write your resolution properly.

Once you've written your resolution, you'll need to fill out the application (on the California website in Forms). Still have questions? Contact State President Virginia Riding (adk.virginiariding@gmail.com). Applications are due by December 5, 2025.

District Conference Reminder

Don't forget that, as per a resolution proposed by our San Diego sisters and overwhelmingly approved by the chapters, all district conferences will be held virtually this year. The state board will lead the conferences, and they promise to

be fun and informative-something you won't want to miss. The dates are as follows:

Northern District	October 4, 2025
Valley District	November 1, 2025
Marina District	January 24, 2026
Southern District	March 16, 2026

All conferences will start at 10:00 AM. More information will be forthcoming.

Awesome Adventures in Austin

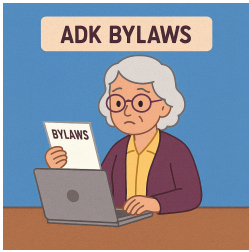
From July 9-14, over 30 California sisters enjoyed the International Convention in Austin, TX. Along with great speakers and entertainment, sisters were able to attend various learning sessions and reconnect with friends from other chapters.

In order to allow more flexibility and less cost, the California contingency met at a lovely outdoor facility across from the hotel for a fun, no-host meet 'n' greet. There was time to chat, enjoy refreshing drinks, and reconnect. Afterwards, attendees were encouraged to find a venue of their choice to continue the fun: either the nearby Fare Ground food court, barbecue restaurant, or whatever sounded yummy. All in all, it was a memorable convention.





Left picture: State Board members enjoying Austin. Front row: Treasurer Virginia (Ginny) Williamson; Past State President Rosena Kruley; President Virginia Riding; President-Elect Donna McCartney. Back Row: Advisor to the Board Susan Raffo; Chaplain Debbie Waltzer; Historian/Sgt.-at-Arms Linda Barker; Secretary Ann McCarty. Right picture: A collection of California Presidents in Austin. Sara Cooper (2022), Mollie Acosta (2014), Susan Raffo (2012), Virginia Riding (current), Rosena Kruley (2024), Mary Ann Englehart (2016), and Karen Kirby (2020).



By-Laws Update

Some sisters have complained that there are too many forms and too much paperwork required by Alpha Delta Kappa. Well, By-Laws chair Colleen Golden (Beta Rho) heard you and just saved you from having to update your chapter by-laws. That’s right, she updated all of California’s chapter by-laws so that you do not need to do it. Thank you, Colleen! Your efforts are greatly appreciated.



Treasurer’s Information

State Treasurer Virginia (Ginny) Williamson (Beta Kappa) was recently asked about whether individual members’ donations to Alpha Delta Kappa

chapters may be deducted on personal income tax returns. Pam Collins from Headquarters explained that, in short, no, they can't. Here's why.

Alpha Delta Kappa International is a non-profit 501(c)3, as is the Foundation. Donations to these entities are deductible. Each chapter, however, is a 501(c)7, which is a different designation by the IRS and CA Franchise Tax Board. Donations to a 501(c)7 are not deductible on personal tax returns.

Pam suggested chapters can adopt the strategy of having the Foundation hold money for chapters for altruistic purposes. It will distribute the funds when requested by the chapter. Donations made to this fund held by the Foundation *would* be considered tax deductible.

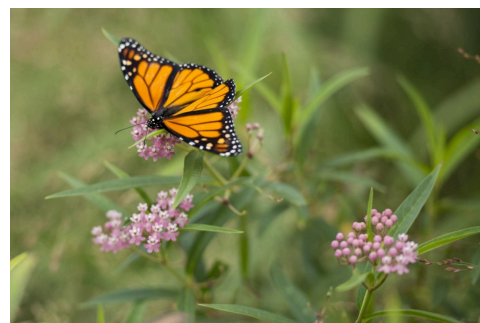
For more information about this process, contact Ginny (adk.vwilliamson@gmail.com) or Pam Collins at HQ.



Scam Alert

Several sisters recently received an email claiming to be from President Virginia Riding asking you to buy gift cards. This is a scam and should be deleted. When in doubt, check with Virginia (adk.virginiariding@gmail.com) before doing anything of this nature.

Words of Wisdom: Without change, there would be no butterflies.



Spotlight on the State Executive Board



The 2024-2026 California State Executive Board. Front row: Linda Barker (Historian/Sgt.-at-Arms), Donna McCartney (President-Elect), Virginia Riding (President), Rosena Kruley (Past State President), Ginny Williamson (Treasurer). Back row: Susan Raffo (Advisor to the Board), Ann McCarty (Secretary), Debbie Waltzer (Chaplain).



Ann McCarty, State Secretary

Hi CA Sisters - my name is Ann McCarty and I am your current State Secretary. I spend most of our meetings staring at my computer screen and trying to listen carefully to capture the important discussions taking place with the Executive Board. You can find the minutes of all our meetings on the state website.

I am a proud native Californian and have spent most of my life in the SF Bay Area, with a few years in the San Diego area for graduate school and beyond. My degrees are in Speech Pathology and Audiology, but I worked primarily as a classroom teacher in special education for upper elementary students for four decades, with a few years spent as an Induction mentor for teachers in the first two years of their careers. I have been a proud member of CA Alpha Lambda chapter based in Sunnyvale since 2002.

I am now fully enjoying the pleasures of retirement. I remain active in our local ADK chapter, and especially love my main volunteer gig as an outdoor education docent for our local open space district. In that role, I plan and lead hikes for the public, serve as a host at a nearby nature center and get my kid-fix by leading 3-5 graders on nature based field trips. I also love to cycle, play pickleball, hike, line dance, work out and usher for several local theatre companies. I come from a large family and enjoy lots of family activities as well. As you can tell, I like to be active!

It has been a pleasure to serve our California sisters as your state secretary this biennium. I am new to the board this year and am enjoying getting to know my fellow board members (all of whom are outstanding) and moving around the state a bit to meet and connect with some of you. I hope our paths will cross sometime in the future!



Debbie Waltzer, Chaplain

I am Debbie Waltzer, your State Chaplain. I was born in Oakland, CA on July 14, 1960, moved to Tucson, Arizona for one year, then moved to Riverside, CA from 1962 until I went away to attend

San Diego State in 1978. I received my BS Degree in Child Development in 1982 and completed my teaching credential program in 1983. I spent the next few years working in a private pre-school until I passed the CBEST exam and got my first teaching job in Escondido, CA in 1985 where I taught for two years.

I left Escondido and my beautiful condo in Pacific Beach in 1987, returning to Riverside where I was hired by Fontana Unified School District. My assignment was 1st grade at West Randall Elementary. It was the first year of a year-round multi-track schedule. I stayed at West Randall for 35 years teaching 1st grade, 2nd grade, Kindergarten and 4th grade and ended up mostly teaching 2nd grade. Both 1st and 2nd grades were my favorite grades to teach.

While teaching my first year in Fontana, I went to Cal State San Bernardino and got my Masters Degree in Reading and my Reading Specialist credential. Many years later, I trained as a Reading Recovery teacher. I also was a trainer for the district in guided reading.

When I returned to the Inland Empire in 1987, I met my husband, Eric, and we were married in July of 1988. We purchased a house the same year and have lived in Riverside ever since.

The year 2022 was momentous because I retired from Fontana after 35 years with a total of 37 years of teaching.

I have no children but love being a dog mom to two adopted dogs: Whitney, who I believe to be a Dutch Shepherd and who is 4 years old, and Sandy, who I believe is an American Dingo.

I have been an active member in Zonta International, a worldwide women's group helping to empower women, for over 20 years. I've held many leadership positions-president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, Area Director- and am currently president of the local club.

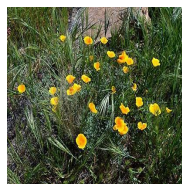
As an ADK sister, I am a member of Iota and have been President, Vice President, and Historian/Sgt-at-Arms in our chapter. I served last biennium on the State Executive Board as Historian/Sgt-at-Arms and now as Chaplain.

I am on the board of CalRTA Division 21 as Volunteer Hours chair and a member of the grant committee, and I serve as Financial Secretary for the Riverside Women's club. I also helped a friend raise a Canine Companion in 2022. Panda, a yellow lab, has become a breeder and had her first litter.

One of my goals when I retired was to go to water aerobics 3 times a week. I also do yoga twice a week, play tennis once a week, and walk once a week with the Riverside Roadrunners. I belong to the Riverside Newcomers and Neighbors Club where I play Mexican Train, Bunco, and attend the Lunch Bunch, where we go to different restaurants once a month for lunch.

I like to travel and my goal is to visit all 50 states. So far, I have been to 46 with Hawaii on my list for 2025. I went to Europe in 1983 and visited 23 countries in 56 days with an additional stay in Israel, my 2nd time visiting the Middle East.

My hobbies are making jewelry and cards, crochet, and really anything crafty and creative.



**Say "YES!" to a State Board or
Committee Chair position in
Alpha Delta Kappa.**



Linda Barker, Historian/Sergeant-at-Arms

Linda Barker was born and raised in the Fresno area. She is a member of Gamma chapter and is a violet sister. She taught in Fresno Unified School District and retired as a 4th grade teacher at Manchester G.A.T.E. Elementary School. She says that she is excited to be on the state board and to further her involvement at the state level. She values Alpha Delta Kappa's commitment to philanthropy, education, and fellowship.

California State Altruistic Project



As you know, Camp Kesem was chosen as the California State Altruistic Project at the 2024 State Convention. This program for children ages 6-18 whose

parents are in cancer treatment or who have lost their battle with cancer has 130 nationwide chapters serving 7,000 children. Twenty-two chapters are in California, including on many UC campuses and state universities.

California Alpha Delta Kappa donations will be allocated to cover costs to allow as many children as possible to attend Camp Kesem. **We will continue collecting donations until a new project is chosen at the state convention in May.** Chapter and individual donation checks should be made out to California Alpha Delta Kappa and sent to State Treasurer Virginia Williamson at 22586 Fifth Street, Hayward, CA,94541.



Scholarship Information

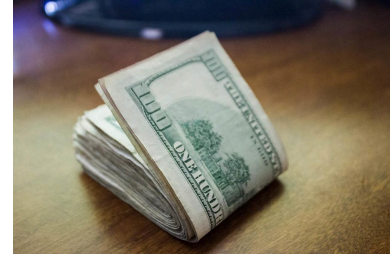
Congratulations to California sisters Brigetta Pryor (Beta Rho) and Cami Cipolla (Xi) who each recently received a Spring Regional Mini-Scholarship. Wouldn't you love to see your name added to theirs as an Alpha Delta Kappa scholarship or grant winner?

There are many other opportunities to be awarded Alpha Delta Kappa grants and scholarships. In order to see what is available, go to the International website (alphadeltakappa.org). To get on the website the first time, your user name is your last name and member number (e.g. RIDING12345). The password the first time is **ADK2022!**. You can change your password once you've signed in and then save the information.

Once on the International website, click on the Members Only tab, then Foundations, then Awards, Grants & Scholarships. The At-A-Glance chart lists the name, due date, who is eligible to apply, and the dollar award all in one place. This site is updated frequently, so visit it often to see what you or members of your chapter can apply for.

Keep reading for more scholarship opportunities!

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Excellence in Education Award

Now is the time to nominate a fellow Alpha Delta Kappa Sister or yourself for the Excellence in Education Award. This award comes with a monetary gift of \$500 at the state level and, if chosen, other monetary awards as well as special recognition at the regional and International levels. This would be a wonderful addition to your resume.

For further information and a copy of the Excellence in Education application, go to the International website. Look under Membership/Awards and Recognition/Excellence in Education. Nominations at the state level are open until November 1st. Best of luck to all of our active educator members!

Innovation Grant

Do you know an outstanding, innovative teacher who is not an AΔK member? You can nominate them for the Innovation Grant. This grant is open to Non-Members with no more than ten years of teaching experience. Recommendation by an Alpha Delta Kappa member is required. Up to \$300 per grant may be awarded for a total of 35 grants. Grants are divided as equally among regions as possible based on the sponsor's chapter and region. Applications open August 15th.

Fall Regional Mini-Grants

Applications for Fall Regional Mini-Grants are due October 15. They are available to any member. The amount awarded is up to \$500 per scholarship, maximum \$10,500 annually. Scholarships are divided as equally among regions as possible.

Apply Now!!! You deserve to win a scholarship!



Gamma Chapter Sells Winning Ticket

Every year for the past 18 years, California Gamma and Xi sisters have volunteered at the St. Jude Dream House in the Fresno/Clovis area. They sell tickets, give tours, and encourage visitors to support St. Jude children's charity.

The Dream House fundraiser allows people to buy \$100 tickets and win various prizes, the ultimate of which is a beautiful brand new home. And every year, the hope is that one of the Gamma or Xi sisters will be the person to sell the winning ticket.

Since the goal is to sell 10,000 tickets at various venues, online, and by mail, this is not as easy to achieve as one might think. But this year, it finally happened.

After a tour led by Gamma treasurer Virginia Riding, Gamma president Leanna Funk sold John Jasper the winning ticket. When asked, Jasper said he was just happy to support St. Jude and was astonished to actually win. He gave great advice to future winners (hire a lawyer since this is not an easy process to maneuver financially) and thanked the Alpha Delta Kappa sisters for volunteering.

**Support St. Jude's Children's Hospital,
one of Alpha Delta Kappa's International
Altruistic Projects.**



Gamma sisters Kathi Carrle, Dee Dee Sary, Donna Campbell, Virginia Riding, and Donna Sullivan enjoyed meeting John Jasper, the winner of the 2025 St. Jude Dream House in Fresno, CA.



ITE Scholar Update

One of the highlights of the recent International Convention was a panel discussion featuring Alpha Delta Kappa's ITE scholars. ITE Scholars are a highly qualified group of seven women who are recipients of both

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. These talented and personable young ladies were an inspiration, especially Meri Kadagidze, our ITE Scholar.

Meri's sponsors are Sue Downing and Kathy Fleming, Washington Beta Iota Chapter in the Redmond/Kirkland area near Seattle, and the University of Washington. Meri's birthday is September 24. Her address: 7602 Sixth Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98115. Her email is meri.kadagidze@gmail.com.

Meri is a Fulbright Scholar from the country of Georgia and is pursuing a master's degree in education leadership and policy studies with an emphasis on education policy development and social transformation advocacy.

Meri earned a MED in Education Administration in Georgia, and since 2017, she has worked with non-profit and non-governmental groups primarily as an education specialist/researcher and project coordinator. She aims to assist and inspire teachers while elevating their profession.

She has been working on a variety of research projects, including the history of Georgian school education, evaluating academic learning losses during the pandemic, exploring school leadership practices, teacher policies, and Georgian policy planning and assessment systems. She has also participated in advocacy campaigns such as the School Meal Program, the National Teacher Prize, and promotion of social and emotional learning in schools.

As Meri continues her master's degree studies in educational policy at the University of Washington School of Education, she would love to hear from you! Spread love and cheer to Meri this year. Also consider inviting her to virtually attend a chapter meeting.

ITE Scholars appreciate cards, emails, and contact from Alpha Delta Kappa sisters. Keep in touch!



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

2025-2026 International Teacher Education Scholars



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



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



Emma Martinez
University of Pennsylvania
Country – El Salvador
Birthday – August 24



Hengly Te
University of Nebraska
Country – Cambodia
Birthday – April 9



Nondumiso Thango
Syracuse University
Country – South Africa
Birthday – January 13



Sangsupa Penrach
University of Washington
Country – Thailand
Birthday – May 4



Thembisile Buthelezi
University of Delaware
Country – South Africa
Birthday – June 6

Calendar

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| August 15 | Innovation Grant Application opens |
| September 1 | Regional Officer Candidate Application opens |
| September 24 | Send birthday emails, gift cards, etc. to ITE scholar Meri Kadagidze |
| October | Alpha Delta Kappa Month |
| October 1 | Classroom Grant Deadline |
| October 1 | Kappan submissions deadline (Did you know that the editor of the Kappan is California's own Joanne Grimm?) |

October 4	Virtual Northern District Conference
October 15	Fall Regional Mini-Scholarship application deadline
October 15	Chapter Needs Assessment (CNA) Reflections
	NO FORM-Conversation with State VP for Membership
November 1	Regional Officer Candidate applications deadline
November 1	Excellence in Education Award Nominations deadline (may be nominated by chapter or self-nominated)
November 1	Virtual Valley District Conference
November 1	State Altruistic Project nominations due
November 15	Innovation Grant Deadline
December	Send cards, emails, etc. to ITE scholar Meri Kadagidze
December 5	State Officer applications due
December 5	State Resolution applications due
December 15	State Excellence in Education Application packet deadline
January 24	Virtual Marina District Conference
March 16	Virtual Southern District Conference
May 1-3	State Convention in Old Town Clovis

Remember, send articles and pictures for the next issue!