

# Siblings Revelry

California Alpha Delta Kappa

Volume 2 Issue 5 December 2025



## President's Message 🎩



The year is rushing to its end, as is my biennium. It's hard to believe that in a little over five months, my term will end. It has been a delight working with our fantastic board as well as all of you California sisters. The Beach Boys song is true-there really is something special about California girls! I can't wait to gather with everyone at the State Convention as we reconnect with our friends and celebrate our sisterhood. Until then, I wish you and your loved ones a safe and happy holiday season! 🎁🧑‍🎄🌲🧑‍🎅❄️

## 📌 Virtual District Conference Reminders

Zoom links will be emailed to all district members a couple of weeks before each conference. Conferences start at 10:00 AM, but there will be time to socialize from 9:30-10:00. The dates are as follows:

Marina District	January 24, 2026
Southern District	March 14, 2026

I look forward to seeing you at a virtual conference soon! 🌸

## Mark Your Calendars



### The State Convention Is Coming!

Miss meeting in person with your ADK sisters? The 36th Alpha Delta Kappa California State Convention will give you that opportunity. Plan to spend the weekend of **May 1-3, 2026** socializing in charming Old Town Clovis. (Clovis is located just east of Fresno in the Central Valley.)

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. Lodgings will be a bit different from previous conventions.

### Where You Might Stay

Because we are using the Clovis Veterans' Memorial Building as our meeting/banquet venue for this convention, you do not have to stay at any particular hotel so that we can meet a room quota. Sisters may choose from several hotels conveniently located nearby to stay. Some of these include:

- **Best Western Clovis Cole** (across the street from Veteran's Memorial Bldg.)  
415 Clovis Ave., Clovis, CA 93612
- **Comfort Suites** (two blocks from Veteran's Bldg.)  
143 Clovis Ave., Clovis, CA 93612
- **Fairfield Inn & Suites** (four blocks from Veteran's Bldg.)  
50 N. Clovis Ave., Clovis, CA 93612

Other options include nearby rental homes, VRBO's, and Bed and Breakfasts. Wherever you choose to stay, plan on a fun and friendly weekend with your Alpha Delta Delta Kappa sisters.



## State Officer Candidate Applications 🍎

WE NEED **YOU** ON THE 2026-2028 STATE EXECUTIVE BOARD! **Just say YES** and apply! Your Board 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](http://adkcalif.org)) and click on State Conventions. Applications should be sent to Gamma Mu sister Mari Page ([adkmari.page@gmail.com](mailto:adkmari.page@gmail.com)).

## Chapter Chat 💬

### Distinguished Program Recognition 🏆

Four California chapters were recently honored by International for exceptional programs. CA Beta Eta and CA Gamma Beta each received the highest award while CA Beta Rho and CA Eta both received an honorable mention.

Distinguished Program Recognition acknowledges chapters with outstanding programs that reflect the purposes of Alpha Delta Kappa (i.e. Altruism, Excellence in Education, and World Understanding) as well as programs that focus on personal enrichment. Distinguished programs are unique, creative, and/or innovative. They also provide ideas for other chapters to use when planning programs and they promote attendance and involvement of members and prospective members. These as well as past program ideas can be accessed on the International website.

Congratulations to the chapters being honored!

### Mini Grants and Recipients for 2025 📖

**Northern:** Caroline Chiramberro, CA Phi Award: \$50

Teacher: Westmoor HS, Daly City

Caroline seeks to create inclusive, equitable access by providing math activities and materials to reduce barriers to learning for English Learners, immigrant students, and students with learning differences. The requested resources will help build confidence, strengthen academic language, and deeper problem-solving skills to create a culture where students see themselves as capable in math and active contributors.

**Southern: Melissa Cariss, CA Beta Omicron** Award: \$483

Teacher: Grade 1 and English Learner Coordinator  
Poway Unified School District

Melissa seeks to create engaging, hands-on STEM activities to stimulate the natural curiosity of her young learners, as part of their daily center rotations, to imagine, build, create and test ideas in a structured playful environment. Additionally, a developmentally appropriate environment that's created supports diverse needs: social, emotional, behavioral, academic and language-related.

**Marina: Karen Huck, CA Gamma Nu** Award: \$200

Teacher/Director of an all outdoor school

Karen is new to the Long Beach community and seeks to build relationships and to understand all services available for children in this community. This conference will focus specifically on the Long Beach Early Childhood Education Strategic Plan and on special services available in the Long Beach community. Her school will also pay \$100 for this continuing education conference.

**Valley: Kathleen Kozlowski, CA Theta** Award: \$140

Teacher: Grade 2, Bakersfield City School District

Kathleen's second graders are far-below grade level. Materials, to be purchased from the University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI), were developed and piloted for two+ years. The lessons are scripted with a scope & sequence designed to stress phonics, decoding & encoding that provide needed foundational skills and increase ELA confidence for these struggling students.

Congratulations to all of the recipients and many thanks to Susan Raffo, State Scholarship Chair, and her committee for all their time and effort.





## Gamma Eta News



Jody Diaz, Immediate Past Co-President of Gamma Eta was selected as this year's Assistant Principal of the Year for Palm Springs Unified School District. She serves as an Assistant Principal at Raymond Cree Middle School in Palm Springs. Her ADK sisters honored her at a recent meeting with a poster they all signed.

## Beta Eta Holiday Fun

Beta Eta President Rita Prichard and the sisters of Beta Eta brought the Christmas spirit and fun to their December meeting. Everyone had a wonderful time and felt embraced by the holiday spirit.



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!** 🎅 🌲 🎅



## President-Elect's Message

### AΔK Needs YOU To Go Into State Leadership!

**Fearful Thinking:** Who, me? I've been in leadership at the chapter level, but the state level? I don't think I can do it. 😬

**Positive Thinking:** The sisters currently in state leadership started at the chapter level, too. They were encouraged to try state leadership. Even though they had worries, their chapter sisters knew they could do it. Sisters throughout the state helped them learn their new roles. It was easier than they thought. Plus, they discovered a new layer of sisterhood above their chapter level. They gave it a try and learned with fabulous teacher leaders who are fun to hang out with.

**Courageous Thinking:** I'm going to give it a try! 😄

**You can do it!** Look for applications and information on the California website ([adkcalif.com](http://adkcalif.com), ID and password are both kore123)

Donna McCartney, CA President-Elect,  
adk.donna.mccartney@gmail.com or 412-443-7915.

## \$ Treasurer's Corner \$

### Chapter Dues

Chapter dues have begun coming in. To those who have already paid, you are much appreciated. To those still needing to pay, here's a reminder:

- **State Dues are \$30** and are paid to the Chapter Treasurer.
- **International Dues are \$40** and members have a choice of paying online or to the Chapter Treasurer.
- When sending International Dues, Chapter Treasurers are reminded to also **include the \$20 ITE fee.**

### **Dues Deadlines:**

- **December 31** – Dues are due
- **February 1** – Dues not paid will incur a \$5.00 late charge.
- **March 1** – Dues not paid will result in the member being dropped

Chapter Treasurers have a big job, and you are appreciated beyond measure for all you do. Thank you!

Virginia “Ginny” Williamson, CA State Treasurer



## **Apply for Disaster Funds NOW!**

**Who is eligible:** Any Alpha Delta Kappa sister can nominate themselves, a fellow sister, a non-ADK person, even a group. You may be retired, but colleagues at your former school or in your area might need help replacing items lost in a local disaster.

**What are some examples:** Anyone who has lost items, **personal or other**, due to a disaster of any sort - fire, flood, earthquake, physical, emotional, etc. Teachers who lost school supplies, classroom books, art supplies, or technology can apply. **The loss can**

**also be personal**, such as a home or vehicle in a fire. When in doubt about if your loss qualifies, apply!

**What does it take to apply:** It is a very simple process - fill out the form attached below and mail it to our state president. You can also find the form on the California website. This is a no-strings-attached grant - **we want to get money into the hands of worthy applicants as easily and quickly as possible.**

**Where did the money come from:** These are funds donated by fellow California ADK sisters as well as donations from sisters across the country. **We do not want it to sit in our bank account - we want to distribute it. ACT NOW** for an up to \$300 grant!

## **EDUCATORS HELPING EDUCATORS APPLICATION**

Email completed application to State President Virginia Riding at

[adk.virginiariding@gmail.com](mailto:adk.virginiariding@gmail.com)

or mail it to her at:

Virginia Riding, 4735 N. Malvern Ave., Sanger, CA 93657

Submitted by

Ann McCarty, State Secretary  



## Membership News 📰 👩👧

Don't forget to keep sending State Vice President for Membership Teresa Heitmiller Olea your nominations for the **“Rockstars of Membership”** award which will be given during the upcoming 2026 State Convention in Historic Clovis. What a great way to honor those sisters who are helping their California chapters thrive!

Nominations and questions can be sent to Teresa at [TOLEACASA@GMAILCOM](mailto:TOLEACASA@GMAILCOM). Please include a detail or two about why you are recommending your chapter sister for this special recognition. Feel free to nominate more than one sister if your chapter is lucky enough to have several Rockstars.

❤️ Connection is Contagious! ❤️

**Teresa Heitmiller Olea, State VP for Membership**

"Mrs. Aloha" 🌴



## State Chaplain's Thought

by Debbie Waltzer

Life is a climb, but the view is great.



## Calling All ADK Historians and Chapter Presidents!

submitted by **Linda Barker, State Historian**

Please send me pictures of your 2024-2026 chapter events and meetings. These will be shared with the Southeast Regional Historian and also used for our current President Virginia Riding's memory book. Send at least 5 to 10 pictures with captions to [adk.lindabarker@gmail.com](mailto:adk.lindabarker@gmail.com).



## California State Altruistic Project

Camp Kesem is our 2024-2026 State Altruistic Project. **Your support is needed.** 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 Update

submitted by Susan Raffo, State Scholarship Chair

## Eleanor Bendell State Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee is currently working to convert the Eleanor Bendell State Scholarship application to a **digital format**.

This scholarship, named for and endowed by former State President Eleanor Bendell, was created to encourage professional growth. Applicants must be enrolled in an academic degree program at an accredited college or university, or involved in a worthy education project. Information regarding the requirements can be found on the CA website.

The **recipient will receive up to \$3,500 at the State Convention**. Now that the CA website is “up and running” thanks to our webmaster, Karen Kirby, we plan to post the link on the website.

The **submission due date is March 1, 2026**. Watch for an e-blast in the next few months for more information.

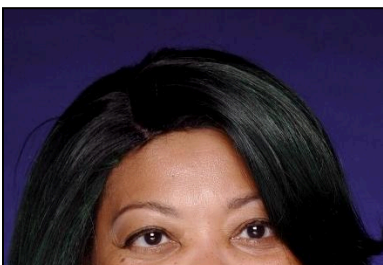
## Other CA Awards

The [Elizabeth “Betty” Rosenberg Golden Chapter Award](#) is presented at the State Convention to honor chapter participation throughout the biennium. The application is completed by the chapter president and must be **submitted to State President Virginia Riding by February 15, 2026** to be considered. A description and application can be accessed using the link above.

## Regional Professional Development Scholarship

Working on advanced studies, a post-graduate degree, or National Board Certification? The **Regional Professional Development Scholarship**, an award of up to \$1,500, may be used to assist you or other member-applicants engaged in education to support your professional development. Click on the link [Regional Professional Development Scholarship](#) for more information. **Due date: January 31, 2026**

Explore other International scholarships/grants by clicking on [Scholarships at a Glance](#).



**SWR Access, Belonging & Community Report**

## What is LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT?

The ABC Committee of the Southwest Region promotes the need to present a land acknowledgement at the beginning of meetings/conferences/conventions to honor the original occupants of the land where sisters are meeting.

The State Board has been doing so during this biennium, and we hope that you have also begun to open your own chapter meetings with land acknowledgements that pay tribute to the original inhabitants of the land: the native tribes, who, in most cases, were forced to move off their ancestral lands.

There are three elements to writing a good land acknowledgement:

**First**, describe the customs and traditions of the indigenous peoples who inhabited the land where the event is being held.

**Secondly**, relate the history of those peoples to understand why they no longer inhabit that area of land. It's important to be honest and complete in describing this history. Your statement should acknowledge the complexity of colonialism, identity, and the removal of indigenous peoples from their homes and history.

**Third**, discuss the current situation. What is their connection to their ancestral land?

A land acknowledgement does not just mean learning about the Indigenous peoples who lived on your land in the past. It also means recognizing that they are still a present part of your home and still have a claim to the land you use today. Learning and highlighting the present is just as important as recognizing the past.

Rosena Kruley, Chair ([adk.kruleyr@gmail.com](mailto:adk.kruleyr@gmail.com))





## Educators are Heroes Membership Grant

2026 Winter/Spring Cohort

The 2026 Educators are Heroes Grant Application JotForm can be found on the international website > Chapter Officers > Chapter Training Tools. Reach out to Kathy Beatty ([kathybeattyadk@gmail.com](mailto:kathybeattyadk@gmail.com)), International VP for Membership, with questions.



# ITE Scholars Evolving Together



### 2026 ITE Webinar

Join us to share insights from our Scholar Panel

January 24, 2026  
3:00 pm (CST)  
via ZOOM



Emma Alfaro-Martinez  
El Salvador



Thembisile Buthelezi  
South Africa



Meri Kadagidze  
Georgia



Shehneela Naz  
Bangladesh



Sangsupa Penrach  
Thailand



Hengly Te  
Cambodia



Nondumiso Thango  
South Africa

**The GRreek Squad Can Help!** Does your chapter or council need help setting up Zoom meetings? The GRreek Squad can do that (and more!) for you. Contact the Greek Squad one of three ways:

1. (Preferred) Send an email to [caadkgreeksquad@gmail.com](mailto:caadkgreeksquad@gmail.com), including your name, chapter, email address, phone number, PC or Mac user, and a brief description of your issue.
2. Call 949-466-8786 and leave a voicemail for Karen Kirby including your name, chapter, email address, phone number, PC or Mac user, and a brief description of your issue.
3. Submit the *Google Form* by clicking on this link: [Assistance Request Form](#)

## Calendar

December	Send cards, emails, etc. to ITE scholar Meri Kadagidze
December 31	<b>State Officer application deadline extended</b>
January 24	Virtual Marina District Conference 10:00-12:00
January 24	ITE Scholars Zoom at 1:00
End of January	State Convention Registration Packets Sent Electronically
March 14	Virtual Southern District Conference 10:00-12:00
May 1-3	State Convention in Old Town Clovis
June 24-26	Tri-Region Conference at Park MGM Hotel in Las Vegas

*Happy Holidays!*

