

# Siblings Revelry




California Alpha Delta Kappa

Volume 2 Issue 6 January 2026




## President's Message



Goodbye, 2025! Hello, 2026! Time is certainly flying. Before long, we'll be winding up this biennium with a state convention in May and a regional conference in June. We can look forward to returning to in-person district conferences in the fall, and we can expect plenty of excitement and enthusiasm from our newly elected state and chapter officers as they plan and present fun and enriching meetings. So hang on tight and keep that positive attitude handy because ready or not, the new year is here!   

## Virtual District Conference Reminder

Our final virtual district conference (on March 14, 2026) will be here before we know it. An informational note and invitation will be sent soon, and a Zoom link will be emailed to all Southern District members about a week before the conference. Contact me ([adk.virginiariding@gmail.com](mailto:adk.virginiariding@gmail.com)) for the link if you don't receive yours. The conference will start at 10:00 AM, but there will be time to socialize from 9:30-10:00.

I look forward to seeing you at the virtual Southern District Conference! 

## 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 to allow the state to 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.



### Registration Packet Coming

Be on the lookout for your State Convention registration packet, arriving soon via email. It will contain information about voting, copies of the proposed and current state budget, bylaws, the rules of convention, your registration form, and more. Read through it carefully and don't forget to send in your registration! 

## State Officer Candidate Applications 🍎

### **WE NEED YOU ON THE 2026-2028 STATE EXECUTIVE BOARD!**

The application deadline has been extended to March 15 and we are currently in need of applicants for the offices of Vice-President for Membership, Treasurer, Secretary, Chaplain, and Historian/Sgt.-at-Arms.

**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

CA Gamma has been growing! Since October, they have initiated seven new sisters and reinstated another. How did this phenomenal growth occur? Because of the continued efforts of one enthusiastic sister.

For the last several years, Gamma member Alethea Traskin, a working teacher, approached many of her colleagues and neighbors about visiting a meeting. No one took her up on the offer initially, but Alethea didn't give up. Every time a meeting drew near, she reminded her colleagues and neighbors.

Her persistence paid off last summer when several potential sisters attended Gamma's Educators Are Heroes sponsored ice cream social. The guests were impressed with Gamma's friendliness, altruism projects, scholarship program, and interesting meetings, so five of them joined in October. One of those new sisters had brought a friend to the October meeting, who then joined in November. This new sister invited two colleagues who joined at the January meeting.

The moral to this story? Sometimes one enthusiastic and dedicated sister can cause great things to happen. Keep inviting potential members, and don't give up if they don't attend immediately. And when guests do attend, be welcoming and interested in the potential members.

If you have a story from your chapter that you'd like to share, please send it and pictures to [adk.virginiariding@gmail.com](mailto:adk.virginiariding@gmail.com).



CA Gamma sisters at the October 2025 initiation ceremony. From left to right: Leanne Funk (Chapter President), Kathleen Lehman (reinstated), Kristan Kesterke, Stephanie Guerra, Amy Micu, Jackie Esquivel (new sisters), and Virginia Riding (State President).

## World Understanding Update

Dear Alpha Delta Kappa Sisters,

As educators and members of Alpha Delta Kappa, we are united by a shared commitment to service, leadership, and global awareness. One of the most meaningful ways we live out that commitment is through our altruistic endeavors each and every day.

Across our organization, chapters are doing inspiring work—supporting education, building cross-cultural connections, and making a positive impact in their communities and beyond.

The Making a Better World initiative is an optional, non-competitive program that seeks to highlight the amazing work going on across our organization every day. Whether your activities include service projects, partnerships, cultural exchanges, fundraising, advocacy, or educational programs, your story matters. By sharing your experiences, you help inspire other chapters and strengthen our collective mission.

We encourage each chapter to take the next steps and complete the application via this jot form, [Making a Better World Initiative Application](#), along with photos.

Together, we can recognize the powerful difference Alpha Delta Kappa members are making around the world.

For more information about this initiative, please visit the [Making a Better World](#) landing page on the [Alpha Delta Kappa International Website](#).

Thank you for your continued dedication, creativity, and service. We look forward to learning from one another and acknowledging the incredible work happening across our chapters.


In sisterhood and service,

Diane Best 

Southwest Region World Understanding Chair  
Nevada Beta Chapter

## 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).

Contact Donna McCartney, CA President-Elect  
([adk.donna.mccartney@gmail.com](mailto:adk.donna.mccartney@gmail.com) or 412-443-7915)

# \$ Treasurer's Corner \$

## Chapter Dues Deadlines

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

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 applications 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

#### **Stars In the Sea**

A star from Heaven fell into the sea,  
That's the legend of the starfish as we know it to be.  
Intuitive and magical it grows and heals, too,  
Symbolizing renewal and strength in all that we do.  
You're stronger than you think and can accomplish what you wish,  
Just remember the magical meaning of the little starfish.



## Calling All ADK Historians and Chapter Presidents!

submitted by **Linda Barker, State Historian**

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 – 2026 Award: up to \$3500

First given at the 1976 State Convention in San Francisco, this scholarship was Eleanor Bendell's signature project during her biennium as CA State President. This scholarship, meant to encourage life-long learning, is made possible by a memorial gift to the state. The recipient will be announced during the banquet at the State Convention on May 2nd.

Use this link to access the application:

<https://forms.gle/wncT8YF9zeARLxb18>

Guidelines and the rubric can be found on the CA website ([adkcalif.org](http://adkcalif.org)). Click on the scholarship/grants link. The deadline to submit an application is March 10<sup>th</sup> by 11:59 pm. If you have questions or need assistance, contact State Scholarship Chair, Susan Raffo ( [adkraffo@gmail.com](mailto:adkraffo@gmail.com) ).





Above is the new logo and slogan for fundraising for the Alzheimer's Association. It replaces the former slogan, *The Longest Day*. Alpha Delta Kappa is still a part of the fundraising and has established a national team. Team Captain Karen Kirby has registered California Cares as a part of that national team. Our fundraising window is January through June 30, 2026.

### **Donating to California Cares is a bit different than in the past.**

- Chapters do not need to register as part of California Cares as has been done in the past.
- All donations go directly to California Cares. Donors are recognized under the California Cares page, so you and/or your chapter will be given credit for your donation.
- Do not register as a separate event. If you do, your donation will not go to California Cares.
- Do not use the donation form on the website. That form is only for donations that go directly to the Alzheimer's Association and California Cares will not get credit.

### **Donating is much easier. To donate using a credit card:**

- Go to [alz.org/adk](https://alz.org/adk). Find the Alpha Delta Kappa National Team page.
- SKIP How to Register. We are already registered as California Cares.
- Under Our Team Events, click on All Events and scroll down until you see California Cares. Hint: Look for State President Virginia Riding's logo.
- Or, you can click on this link (or copy this link and paste it in your browser): <https://events.alz.org/fundraisers/karenkirby/california-cares> and go directly to the California Cares donation page.
- Fill in the amount of the donation and click on **Donate Now**.

- Decide if you are making a personal donation or you are donating for your chapter (Organization option). Fill in the form and click **Donate Now**.
- Do not use the downloaded offline form.

### **To donate with a check:**

- Make your check out to: **Alzheimer's Association**. Put your chapter name (e.g. CA Gamma Mu) in the memo line.
- Mail it to: Karen Kirby, 21921 Calatrava, Mission Viejo, CA 92692.

It's that simple! If your chapter has a special fundraising event planned, email pictures with captions to: [adk.karen.kirby@gmail.com](mailto:adk.karen.kirby@gmail.com).

For answers to any questions, email Team Captain Karen Kirby at the above email address, or call 949-466-8796 and leave a message. She will get back to you as soon as possible.

Submitted by: Karen Kirby, California Cares Team Captain

These instructions can also be found on the state website [adkcalif.org](http://adkcalif.org).

## **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 GRreek 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



January 24	Virtual Marina District Conference 10:00-12:00
January 24	International Teacher Education (ITE) virtual gathering (1:00 Pacific Standard Time)
January 31	Last day to turn in dues without \$5 late fee
End of January	State Convention Registration Packets sent electronically
February 15	Agnes Robertson Global Outreach Scholarship deadline
February 15	Fine Arts Grant application deadline
March 1	Making a Better World Initiative Deadline
March 1	Membership suspension for non-payment of dues
March 14	Virtual Southern District Conference 10:00-12:00
March 15	Chapter Altruistic Report deadline
April/May	Update Chapter/State officers immediately after elections
May 1-3	State Convention in Old Town Clovis
June 24-26	Tri-Region Conference at Park MGM Hotel in Las Vegas

*Happy Valentine's Day!*



