

# Sibling Revelry




California Alpha Delta Kappa

Volume 2 Issue 7 February 2026



## President's Message



By now, you should have received your 2026 State Convention registration packet. It was delivered via email. This packet contains a lot of important information, including who qualifies to be a voting delegate. Based on the qualification information, chapters need to decide who will represent them as a voter at the in-person convention. Those delegates need to indicate their status on their registration form. Registration forms and payment are due by March 15, so be sure to take care of this soon. And keep reading for more convention information.   

## 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 has been sent, and a Zoom link will be emailed to all Southern District sisters 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 online at the conference!

## Mark Your Calendars

### The State Convention Is Coming!

The 36th Alpha Delta Kappa California State Convention will be held the weekend of **May 1-3, 2026** 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.



### The Registration Packet Has Been Sent!

Your State Convention registration packet should have already arrived via email. Read through the information carefully and contact either of the convention co-chairs, Mollie Acosta ([adk.mollie@gmail.com](mailto:adk.mollie@gmail.com)) or MaryAnn Englehart ([adkenglehart@gmail.com](mailto:adkenglehart@gmail.com)), if you have any questions.

Don't forget to send in your registration and check! 

## Who Can Be A Voting Delegate? 🤔

According to International bylaws, which California bylaws follow, the rules for choosing state convention voting delegates include:

Each state Executive Board Member-1 vote

Each past state president-1 vote

Each chairman of a state committee-1 vote

Each chairman of a state convention-1 vote

Each president of a chapter presidents' council or her alternate-1 vote

One delegate or her alternate for every 10 active members with a minimum of one delegate per chapter-1 vote

One delegate for every 10 sustaining members in attendance-1 vote

Also per International bylaws, voting must be done in person at the convention.

**Bring your phone since you will need it to vote.** 📱

## Calling All First-Time Attendees to a State Convention! 📞

The Noel Leonard Leadership Grant honors past state president (1992-1994) Noel Leonard and is funded using the interest accrued by a \$35,000 endowment bequeathed to Alpha Delta Kappa by Noel's estate. The purpose of the grant is to develop the leadership skills of Alpha Delta Kappa sisters, especially newer members. Attending state conventions is one way to do that.

In the spirit of Noel's wishes, the State Executive Board has agreed that any sister who has never attended a California State Convention will be offered the opportunity to receive a \$200 reimbursement check from this fund to help defray the cost of registration fees, travel, food, etc. In order to access this reimbursement, first-time attendees must:

- Check the line on the registration form stating they are a first-timer
- Pay their convention fees at the time of registration
- Notify State President Virginia Riding ([adk.virginiariding@gmail.com](mailto:adk.virginiariding@gmail.com)) that they are applying for the grant
- Attend the entire state convention

After verification of attendance, the state treasurer will present qualifying sisters their checks. In the event that checks cannot be presented at the convention, they will be mailed within 30 days.

## A State Convention First-Timer's Perspective 🌹

I really want to encourage newbies, or first-timers, to the 2026 State Convention. My first time was in San Jose in 2024. I got to help out by being a Sgt.-at-Arms at the convention. I also met a wonderful new sister, Susan Raffo, and she got me involved at the state level as a member of the scholarship committee.

I want my California sisters to get involved! I really want to plan long-range and get my Theta chapter sisters motivated. Attending the convention can help this happen.

When I went as a first-timer, I got a \$200 grant to help cover expenses. I found out that this convention's first-timers will also get this grant.

I currently am a full time teacher and caretaker for my 94 year old mom with dementia who with God's blessing still lives in her home thanks to sibling teamwork and a guardian angel care-giver who helps us 6 hours a day. I am busy, but I enjoy being a part of the state scholarship committee and am thrilled that one of my Theta sisters, Kathy Koslowski, received the Valley District grant.

I am happy that I attended the 2024 State Convention and encourage you to attend the 2026 State Convention!

Lila Pérez  
CA Theta President

## Altruism Hours and Donations Due

Chapter Altruistic reports are due. The online JotForm opened February 15. The deadline for earning a pearl is March 15, and the JotForm closes on March 31. Contact Fran Dunleavy ([francesmdunleavy@gmail.com](mailto:francesmdunleavy@gmail.com)) for more information.



## International President's Message 💬

From: Conway Blankenship, IP on behalf of IEB and regional leaders

I am writing to share information about a twenty minute presentation, entitled *Evolution through Curiosity*, that will be shared during your state convention.

Prior to the convention, I ask you to view a video sent to chapter presidents that was recorded by some of our members. It will help us create a culture where curiosity creates growth, and can be watched together at a chapter meeting. After viewing the

video, sisters should have time to reflect and discuss what they saw. This will prepare them for the follow-up presentation at the state convention.

As we listen to sisters across our organization and share thoughts from attendees participating in the presentation, members will have the opportunity to reflect and write down one thing to answer this question: What is one thing your chapter can change or experiment with in order to thrive and be energized for the next 5, 10 and 50 years?

If you have any questions, reach out to Jean Hinck ([Jean.hinck@gmail.com](mailto:Jean.hinck@gmail.com)) the representative that will be attending your convention. She will be able to help you plan for this activity.



*Evolving Together,*  
Conway

## President-Elect's Message

### **Top Ten Reasons Why YOU Should Become an AΔK State Leader!**

1. You will get to know seven (or more!) outstanding California sisters. They will become your new sister-friends as you go on this journey together.
2. You can go to the AΔK Regional Conference in Las Vegas on June 24 – 26, 2026 almost free! As an Executive Board member, your travel and hotel expenses are reimbursed. Check out the Sphere!
3. Do you have treasury, secretary, historian, or chaplain skills? The California Executive Board is your place to shine!
4. If you like to play with numbers, become our State Treasurer.
5. Are you great at writing notes? The Secretary job is for you.
6. Are you good at taking photos and assembling a digital scrapbook? You would be a great State Historian.
7. If you like to read favorite quotes and put them together in a Thought for the Day, become our State Chaplain.
8. Do you wonder how other chapters in the state conduct their meetings? What altruistic organizations they support? How they stay involved to support teachers and students? You can travel around the state of California to find out and deepen your knowledge of Alpha Delta Kappa.
9. Would you like to attend the AΔK International Convention in the summer of 2027? Go with our State Executive Board, all travel and hotel expenses paid!
10. And finally, the top reason to become a 2026 - 2028 California State Leader: You get to observe your deepening sister friendships develop into forever friendships.

Thank you to the sisters who have been saying yes to joining the 2026-2028 state board. We do still have a few openings. Contact Gamma Mu sister Mari Page ([adkmari.page@gmail.com](mailto:adkmari.page@gmail.com)) to find out which positions are currently vacant. The application deadline has been extended to March 15, so apply soon. Applications and information can be found by going to the California website ([adkcalif.org](http://adkcalif.org)) and clicking on State Conventions. 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. Submitted by President-Elect Donna McCartney



## Treasurer's Corner

It's hard to believe we're in the last few months of the 2024-26 biennium. I want to send a huge **THANK YOU** to all the amazing, hard-working CA ADK Chapter Treasurers for all you've accomplished.

100% of our chapters filed e-postcards with the IRS and the California Franchise Tax Board as well as sent confirmations to the State Treasurer, which allows Alpha Delta Kappa to retain its tax-exempt status. State and International dues were collected and sent in, keeping your chapters in good standing. Countless other checks were written to reimburse members for ADK expenses, for chapter grants and scholarships, and for chapter and state altruistic projects. You've kept the books, balanced the bank accounts with the bank statements, and so much more. You are all just amazing! Thank you for all you do for your chapter and for Alpha Delta Kappa!

Now consider this. With all your Chapter Treasurer experience in your "tool kit," perhaps you should now consider taking on the role of State Treasurer for the 2026-28 biennium. Your involvement at the state level will be so rewarding and memorable and would truly be a gift to your California ADK sisters. The deadline to apply has been extended to March 15, and applications are available on the CA State website. So just say YES!

Virginia Williamson, Beta Kappa Chapter

## Grant Winners Announced

Two teachers from California have each received a 2025 Classroom Grant of \$400. Classroom grants are designed to provide funds to assist creative, innovative ADK educators with the cost of materials and services that will enhance classroom lessons. The grant recipients are Sharon Goldhamer and Karen Huck, both from Gamma Nu chapter. Congratulations, sisters!

## Secretary's Space

I would like to share a few thoughts about my time on the Executive Board and why you might want to consider it, too.

I came to the Board without a lot of knowledge or experience with ADK at the State Level. While I had been and continue to be quite involved in my own chapter and to a lesser extent my Council, I had not really considered being on the board. When I was approached about it, I gave it some careful thought. I had the same reservations that many of you may currently have, such as: But I don't know enough. Nobody knows who I am. I don't know the other people on the Board or other state-wide leaders. They are so much smarter and knowledgeable about ADK than I am. Will it be a big time commitment? Will I like it? What do I have to contribute? Etc, etc, etc.

And here's what I learned: It didn't matter that I was not super knowledgeable about happenings at the state level. I learned as I went along, with lots of support from those with more knowledge than myself. I was welcomed with open arms and got to meet and interact with a group of wonderful women on the Board and across the State. The time commitment is not nothing, but it is not overwhelming. In the first year of the biennium, there are 4 offsite weekend conferences/meetings. However, this is an opportunity to explore our beautiful state a bit more and get to know and appreciate fellow Board members and sisters across the state. The second year of the biennium is mostly done online, meaning from the comfort of your own home and is more spread out on the calendar. I have enjoyed it. I have learned a lot about our organization and the amazing women who are committed to making it better. I feel like I have contributed to our State organization - not alone, but with my fellow Board members. I have stretched myself mentally. I have had to learn, refine, and practice new skills as a Board member, which I consider at least as brain healthy as doing a daily Wordle.

**Conclusion:** You have no doubt heard the quote "Our strength is our diversity". That is certainly true about your State Board. We are a group of women with many different backgrounds, from across the state geographically and with a variety of talents and skills to share. And all of us had to take that scary leap into leadership. Perhaps this describes you too. All that it takes to join us is willingness and openness to stepping into a new challenge. I guarantee, you too will be surprised at where it will take you.



## Disaster Fund Update

Alpha Delta Kappa California's teacher assistance program, Educators Helping Educators (EHE), recently received a generous \$5,000 donation from the California Retired Teachers Association (CalRTA). The State Board searched diligently for a way to use the money, eventually voting to help teachers affected by fires in Southern California.

There were many relief efforts immediately following the fires, but the Board discovered that there are still teachers in need. They therefore granted \$500 each to 10 qualifying teachers from Pasadena School District.

More money is available in the fund, so if you know of a teacher that needs assistance due to a natural or other disaster, click on the link below for an application.

### [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: Virginia Riding, 4735 N. Malvern Ave., Sanger, CA 93657.

## 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**

**The strength of the team is each individual member.  
The strength of each member is the team.**

**-Phil Jackson**



## Attention, Historians/Sgt.-at-Arms!

submitted by Linda Barker, State Historian/Sgt.-at-Arms

### Historians

An email was sent to each chapter President and Historian regarding sending photos for the current biennium (20224-2026). Thank you for all that have already done this. You have until after the state convention (May 1-3) to send pics. You can also send them to me directly at [adk.lindabarker@gmail.com](mailto:adk.lindabarker@gmail.com).

### Sergeant-at-Arms News

When you register for the State convention, consider checking the box at the bottom of the form to volunteer as an Assistant Sgt.-at-Arms/Page. Your help will be greatly appreciated!



## 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

## Scholarship and Awards to be Given at State Convention

**There's still time!** The **Eleanor Bendell State Scholarship**, named for and endowed by former State President Eleanor Bendell to encourage professional growth, will be awarded at the upcoming State Convention. This biennial award is **valued up to \$3500** and is for an educator who is enrolled in an academic degree program at an accredited college/university or involved in a worthy education project. **Due: March 10, 2026.**

Use this link to access the application form: <https://forms.gle/wncT8YF9zeARLxb18>

At the convention, Danielle Camou, CA Phi member and State Scholarship recipient in 2024, will present a summary of her project in the field of Special Education, focusing on autism.

## **Elizabeth “Betty” Rosenberg Golden Chapter Award**

**Due date extension to March 15, 2026**

Attention all chapter presidents! The Executive Board has extended the due date to submit an application for the **Golden Chapter Award**. The title above is the link to the application. The application can also be found on the CA website, [www.adkcalif.org](http://www.adkcalif.org). The award will be given at the State Convention on May 2, 2026.

## **Congratulations to CA District Mini Grant Recipients**

**CA District Mini Grants**, one each to the four Districts in the state, were awarded at the first of the year to the following sisters: Melissa Carisa, CA Beta Omicron (Southern); Karen Huck, CA Gamma Nu (Marina); Carline Chiramberra, CA Phi (Northern); Kathleen Kozlowski, CA Theta (Valley). The Committee encourages more CA sisters, retired or actively engaged in education, to apply for Mini Grants in Fall 2026.

Want to find out about more opportunities to receive grants and scholarships? Explore International scholarships/grants for 2026-2027 by checking [Scholarships at a Glance](#).



Keep sending chapter and individual donations to our International Altruistic Project, the Alzheimer's Association. The fundraising window is open 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](http://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!**



**Coming to a computer or tablet near you!** The Greek Squad will offer four different workshops on the use of Google Tools. The dates and topics of

these workshops are:

1. **Using Google Docs** to write agendas, meeting minutes, invitations or meeting flyers. **Date: March 30 at 4:30 pm.**
2. **Using Google Sheets** to create spreadsheets to track fundraising, record membership data, or create a budget. **Date: April 13 at 4:30.**
3. **Using Google Forms** to survey chapter members and Using Google Slides to create a slide presentation. **Date: May 11 at 4:30.**
4. **Tips to Organize Google Tools Documents** by creating folders and color coding them for easy access. **Date: June 1 at 4:30.**

You may choose to attend any or all of these workshops. An eblast with a Zoom link will be sent out a week before each workshop.

So put the date(s) on your calendar and watch for the email Zoom link.

After all, what is better than teachers teaching teachers?

The Greek Squad

Diana Galvan, Kathy Gutierrez, Karen Kirby, Ann McCarty, Debbie Waltzer

## Calendar



February 15	Jot-form opens for Chapter Altruistic Reporting
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
March 15	Betty Rosenberg Golden Chapter application due
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
October 3	In-Person Northern District Conference
November 7	In-Person Valley District Conference
January 23, 2027	In-Person Marina District Conference
March 20, 2027	In-Person Southern District Conference