

Siblings Revelry

California Alpha Delta Kappa

Volume 2 Issue 9 April 2026



President's Message



I can't believe the end of the biennium is now days away. The last two years have been an amazing time of growth and learning for me. There have been so many memorable events and wonderful people I never would have experienced or met had I not said yes to a leadership role. It's been quite a ride, and I can't imagine taking it with anyone other than the fabulous board with whom I was lucky enough to work. These sisters by choice have truly become my forever friends. And to all my California sisters, thank you for the kindness and support. You are greatly appreciated!



The State Convention Is Almost Here!

The 36th California Alpha Delta Kappa State Convention is just days away! I hope to see you at the Clovis Veterans' Memorial Building located at 808 4th Street, Clovis.

On Friday, May 1, we'll have registration and a Meet and Greet from 4:00-7:00.

Saturday is business meeting day, beginning at 8:00 AM with muffins and coffee.

The meetings will be followed by the Presidents' Reception from 5:30-6:30 PM, and ending with the banquet and installation of officers from 6:45-9:30 PM. Sunday morning will be the Omega Memorial Ceremony from 9:00-10:00 AM. After that, a State Executive Board meeting for outgoing and incoming board members will be held from 10:30-12:00.

Things To Know Before You Go

- Saturday morning's Leadership Meeting is for **all** members and will feature a light continental breakfast of muffins and coffee.
- What to wear? Business casual for meetings and cocktail/formal for the banquet.
- Outdoor temperatures usually run between the high 70's-mid-80's.
- Bring your chapter banner for the Parade of Chapters on Saturday morning.
- Past state presidents should also bring their banners for Saturday morning.
- Wine can be purchased at the Friday Meet and Greet, Presidents' Reception, and banquet.
- Parking is free and can be found in a covered lot across from the venue entrance or in nearby parking areas.
- Enter the venue on the north side of the building, across from the covered parking.
- Voting documents were sent in your registration email. Print documents before you arrive if you want a hard copy. **No printed copies** of the proposed budget, bylaws, rules of convention, or candidates will be provided.
- Other questions? Email Virginia Riding (adk.viriniariding@gmail.com).

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 **11** qualifying teachers from Pasadena School District.

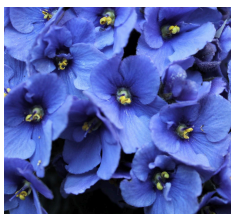
More money is available in the fund, so if you know of a teacher that needs assistance due to a natural or other disaster, click on the link below for an application.

EDUCATORS HELPING EDUCATORS APPLICATION

Email completed applications to State President Virginia Riding at adk.virginiariding@gmail.com or mail it to: Virginia Riding, 4735 N. Malvern Ave., Sanger, CA 93657.

Calling All Sisters! 📞

Do you like taking photos? Do you enjoy organizing them to tell a story or honor an event? We need you to be our CA State Historian! Contact Donna McCartney at 412-443-7915 for details. CA AΔK needs your skills! You can do it! 💪



Chapter Treasurers Are a Treasure!

As this biennium comes to a close, I want to say again that our California Alpha Delta Kappa chapter treasurers are simply awesome! Managing your chapter's finances is no easy task, and you've accomplished so much. You're the best and deserve kudos and bouquets of violets! Thank you so much for all you have done!

Now, as you prepare to close out the year, your culminating responsibility will be to file your chapter's 2026 Financial Summary by June 30. You will receive instructions on filing prior to June 1, when the online reporting form will open. Also, should your chapter still wish to support Camp Kesem, the state altruistic project, donations are still being accepted up to the Convention.

Speaking of the Convention... I hope to see you at the 2026 State Convention in Clovis, CA, May 1 – 3! Please come by and say hello!

Virginia "Ginny" Williamson
ADK State Treasurer 2024-26

Membership News “We’ve initiated a new member! Now what?”

Encourage questions—and if you don’t have the answers, help connect her with someone who does. This not only builds trust but reinforces a culture of support. Involvement creates belonging. **Invite her to take on a specific task or role**, and learn what she enjoys. Matching her interests with altruistic opportunities helps her feel valued and purposeful from the start. **Extend invitations** beyond regular meetings. **Encourage others** to meet her "for coffee" or lunch. Offer to attend conferences, conventions, and events together. These shared experiences deepen connections and create lasting memories. Finally, don’t underestimate the power of simple gestures—like **carpooling** to meetings or events. These moments provide extra time for conversation, laughter, and bonding. By being intentional, welcoming, and supportive, you’re not just adding a new member—you’re helping a sister find her place, her purpose, and her people in Alpha Delta Kappa.

Shared Leadership Information

It’s time for chapters to install new officers. Unfortunately, filling positions can sometimes be difficult. There are legitimate reasons why some sisters may not be able to serve as an officer, such as health challenges, caregiving responsibilities for family members, work schedules, and other commitments.

Shared Leadership can be one solution. It distributes leadership responsibilities between a pair or among a team. This approach provides opportunities for more members to participate in leading the chapter. One or a few don’t feel the weight of managing everything as an individual officer or committee chair. It allows smaller chapters to continue thriving and inviting new members. And before you know it, your chapter is no longer considered “small”!

Advantages

1. Chapters remain active and engaged.
2. Chapters benefit from members’ talents and strengths without requiring individual sisters to fulfill the tasks as sole officers.

3. Sharing an office, committee, or role can make saying “yes” to the task more appealing.
4. Shared leadership allows flexibility in meeting the chapter’s needs.
5. It works well for both small and large chapters.
6. Members with past leadership experience can serve as mentors, even if their current life situation doesn’t allow full participation.
7. This model encourages those who prefer to work collaboratively with another sister to accept an officer or committee position. Using co-officers is an excellent way to mentor future leaders within the chapter. One co-officer may bring experience while the other is learning the role/tasks. In the next biennium, the sister who was learning can become the mentor for another member.

Example: One chapter co-president may feel more comfortable running meetings and representing the chapter, while the other may prefer preparing the agenda, completing necessary forms, and serving as the chapter contact.

There are lots of possibilities to be flexible and continue growing as an Alpha Delta Kappa chapter! Donna McCartney, our incoming State President, is well-versed in Shared Leadership and we are very fortunate to have her as a resource.

Below is a link to a YouTube video about Shared Leadership posted by International.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvhutXfiXk8>

Still not sure this will work? According to Pam Burris, CA Gamma Nu has been using co-presidents for many years. She wrote, “We have a chapter full of those who travel or have grandkids and often need to attend sports events, etc. on Saturday. Shared leadership allows them to be in charge and get a break every now and then. I have served with Sharon Goldhamer and she is extremely knowledgeable in technology whereas I am not. She has really kept our chapter going this biennium!” As you can see, shared leadership can be a game-changer for chapters struggling to fill leadership positions. Why not consider trying it?



Submitted by VP for Membership Teresa Heitmiller Olea



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 to 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.

Sergeant-at-Arms News

When you registered for the State convention, you might have checked the box at the bottom of the form to volunteer as an Assistant Sgt.-at-Arms/Page. Thank you! 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. We will be presenting a check to a Camp Kesem representative at the state convention.

Kesem is a program for children ages 6-18 whose parents are in cancer treatment, are cancer survivors, or who have lost their battle with cancer. There are 5 million children nationwide coping with a parent's cancer diagnosis and Kesem creates experiences and a sense of community to support these children, who often feel anxiety, emotional isolation, loss of social interest, and feelings of hopelessness.

This support includes Camp Kesem, a free, fun-filled annual summer camp, as well as year-round support, communication, and "Friends and Family Days." In 2024, two new programs were launched. Club Kesem is a free on-line support group where children can connect, share, and build resilience. Better Days provides age-appropriate programs for children while their parents are on-site receiving cancer support or treatment.

Program chapters are on college campuses where Kesem recruits student leader volunteers. With oversight and guidance from Kesem, they undergo extensive training on how to create an environment where these children will feel safe and respected as they

cope with their parent's diagnosis. The volunteers also receive leadership training as they are responsible for yearlong fundraising, organizing and hosting the camp, and being camp counselors.

Adding two new chapters in California, Kesem served more than 1,315 children in the state in 2025. All Kesem programs are provided at no cost to families thanks to the generosity of individuals, foundations, and corporate partners. Kesem has received Guidestar's Platinum Seal of Transparency and Charity Navigator's 4 Star Charity designation. California AΔK funds will be allocated to cover costs to allow as many children as possible to attend Camp Kesem.

Do Google Sharing Options Confuse You???



submitted by Ann McCarty, AΔK State Secretary

Are you using google docs for various purposes in your life - maybe for chapter business and personal business too? Are you confused by what the sharing privileges involve? The following is a quick tutorial that may help.

To share any google created item, go to the blue Share button in the upper right hand corner of the page. It will bring up a box that looks like the one below. You can enter email addresses for specific recipients directly into the box that says add people, groups, etc and google will send them a direct email with the link. Or you can give general access to anyone with the link, in which case you would need to copy the link and send it yourself to the intended recipients.

In any event, you will need to decide on your sharing privileges - that is, are the recipient's **viewer, commenters or editors**. Viewers are exactly that - they can only view the document. Commenters are allowed to give feedback, notes and suggestions, but may not alter the original text. Editors are allowed to make any changes they want to the original document.

And finally, if you want it to be a static file that anyone can view, you can also convert it to a pdf document. You do that by going to the file menu, select download and then select pdf. You will need to email that file to your recipients.

2026-2027 District Conference Information

Below are the dates and hosting councils for the upcoming 2026-2027 **IN-PERSON** District Conferences:

Northern District Conference Oct. 3, 2026
Valley District Conference Nov. 7, 2026
Marina District Conference Jan. 23, 2027
Southern District Conference Mar. 20, 2027

Delta/Sierra Councils
Fresno/Clovis Councils
Orange Coast
Inland Cities Council

The second year of conferences are **VIRTUAL** and hosted by the State Executive Board. Their dates are:

Northern: Oct. 2, 2027
Marina: Jan. 22, 2028

Valley: Nov. 6, 2027
Southern: Mar. 18, 2028



Hello Sisters and Forever Friends!

As I reflect on this biennium of being the state chaplain, I can only say that it has been a wonderful and thought-provoking journey. My thoughts have been short and sweet as they are just that...thoughts. I feel as if the job has really empowered me to think about the difference I can make in the world as I ponder the next opening or closing thought and how it can relate to what the theme or current topic is at hand.

I also feel that laughter really helps, and if you take on this job as Chaplain, providing some comic relief is helpful. As they say, laughter is the best medicine! So on that note I will leave you with one thought that has always stuck with me for as long as I can remember.

Do not walk in front of me for I may not follow

Do not walk in back of me for I may not lead

Just walk beside me and be my friend!

I look forward to seeing all of my friends and sisters at the state convention in Clovis in May. My plans are to share many thoughts about sisterhood which is based on President Virginia Riding's theme, "Sisters By Choice, Forever Friends"

Many of you were at the District Conferences and experienced my alter ego, Fraternity Edna, so as she would say...

"Toodleoo!" See you in Clovis!



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. 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.

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.

The GRreek Squad Can Help!



Coming to a computer or tablet near you! The Greek Squad will offer workshops on the use of Google Tools. These workshops are:

1. **Using Google Forms** to survey chapter members and Using Google Slides to create a slide presentation. **Date: May 11 at 4:30.**
2. **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?

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

Final Thoughts

No one likes to think about it, but the sad truth is that none of us is getting out of this adventure called life alive. Planning for this inevitability is important.

Most of us have some sort of will and/or end of life information we have shared with our family, but have you remembered to include Alpha Delta Kappa in these plans? Share with your survivors orally and in writing what they should do with your pins, badges, awards, clothing, memorabilia, etc. Giving items to your chapter to pass along to new members is a much better solution than having it end up at Good Will or in a garbage dump.

Another consideration is to leave a financial endowment. Your donation can be given a specific destination, such as for scholarships or disaster relief. It can make a real difference in the lives of sisters (e.g. thanks to a \$35,000 bequest by Noel Leonard, this year 19 first-time state convention attendees had their registration fees completely covered).

Finally, remind sisters frequently that if for some reason they can no longer be active in ADK, they should give their ADK items to the chapter. No one should let all of the history they've had in ADK end up in the trash.

Calendar

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|------------|---|
| April/May | Update Chapter/State officers immediately after elections |
| May 1-3 | State Convention in Old Town Clovis |
| June 1 | Window opens for filing e-postcards and financial reports |
| June 24-26 | Tri-Region Conference at Park MGM Hotel in Las Vegas |

See you in Clovis! 

