

News and Notes

August 2025



State President's Message

How can it be August already? Wasn't it just yesterday that teachers were packing up their classrooms for summer vacation? Summers are surely getting shorter...unless you're retired!

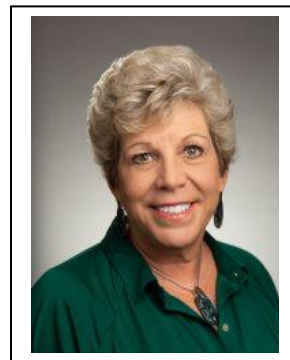
As many of you head back to the classroom, I wish you all the best for a wonderful, successful year. Keep an eye out for potential new members! For those of you who are retired, remember our goals for the 2024-2026 biennium: **Support active educators, not only in your chapter, but in your area.** This is vital for our organization.

As we reflect on this summer, I can't help but mention this summer's International Convention in Austin. It was a HUGE success! I've received several thank you notes from International Executive Board members with comments such as: "The Texas Alpha Delta Kappa sisters sure know how to throw a party!" and "Thank you so much for your Texas hospitality!" We had over 120 Texas AΔK sisters attend the convention, and I thank you all for coming! It was great seeing your enthusiasm. I hope you all had a memorable time.

As we continue the second year of the biennium, please remember our state goals. We have several awards, grants, and scholarships coming up.

Remember...we're Making a Difference. We're Texas Alpha Delta Kappa!

-Shelly Couch





Goals for 2024-2026

SHINE

- **S-Support** active educators, not only in your chapters, but in your area.
- **H-Honor** the traditions and promote Alpha Delta Kappa's ideals of altruism, educational excellence, world understanding, and sisterhood.
- **I-Increase** membership through recruitment of new members, reinstatement of former members, and the retention of current members.
- **N-Nominate** sisters for awards, scholarships, and grants by increasing awareness.
- **E-Encourage** open communication by sending newsletters and utilizing the International website.

2025-2027 International Theme and Logo

Our new International Alpha Delta Kappa President, Conway Blankenship, introduced her theme and logo for the 2025-2027 biennium during the banquet at the International Convention last month. The theme is “Evolving Together”.

Conway explained that circles represent wholeness, hold energy, and symbolize connectiveness. Teams gather in circles, friends circle around campfires, we create circles of friends, family, school teammates, and we create a circle when we sing “The Lamp of Alpha Delta Kappa”. The circle in the logo consists of our three colors in Alpha Delta Kappa—green, yellow, and purple in an ombre effect. The circle is not closed, which represents our ability to welcome new ideas and members. The circle is open to continue evolving as an organization to meet the needs of our current members. At the bottom, the ends split into 4 segments—a nod to our beginnings. The Alpha Delta Kappa triad is in the center.

With the theme “Evolving Together” we are able to listen and learn from one another as we remember our history and our purpose. The theme asks us to reflect on today’s world as we continue to be an organization that **“makes a difference”** for years to come.



World Understanding Project Update

During the International Convention, it was announced that the new World Understanding project is currently on “PAUSE” due to the Federal Restricted Travel list. More information will be issued by International in September. Watch the October News and Notes for more details.

Pearls of Achievement Awards

Earning “pearls” in Alpha Delta Kappa is no small feat. It takes teamwork and grit. Some chapters missed important due dates because of due date changes—ITE payments. Other chapters didn’t show growth in membership. *The GREAT news is that almost every Texas chapter has already earned a pearl for next year by completing the H-114 form! YEA!!!* Way to go, sisters!

At the South Central Luncheon at the International Convention, several Texas chapters were honored with achieving 6 and 7 Pearl status for the first year of the biennium.

Congratulations to those chapters!

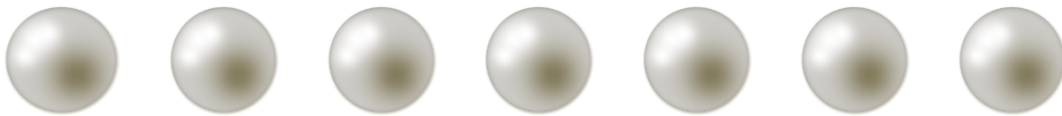
Here they are:

6 Pearl Texas Chapters:

Epsilon, Omicron, Alpha Rho, Beta Chi, Gamma Beta, Gamma Delta, Gamma Xi, Gamma Tau, Delta Beta, Delta Eta, Delta Lambda, Epsilon Pi, Epsilon Sigma

7 Pearl Texas Chapters:

Beta, Beta Omicron, Gamma Theta, Epsilon Omicron



Texas Membership Service Award

Another award that was given at the South Central Luncheon at the International Convention was the Membership Service Award. This year the Membership Service Award was given to **Brenda Benavides, membership chair from Texas Delta Kappa**. Delta Kappa is located in Laredo, Texas. Last year, Delta Kappa grew in membership with 13 new members and 2 reinstated members. Congratulations Delta Kappa! You’re making a difference in Texas Alpha Delta Kappa!



Distinguished Program Recognition

Application Now Open

Purpose

The Distinguished Program Recognition (DPR) acknowledges chapters with outstanding programs that reflect the purposes of Alpha Delta Kappa (Altruism, Excellence in Education, Inclusion/Diversity/Equity, World Understanding) as well as programs that focus on personal enrichment. Distinguished programs are unique, creative, and/or innovative. The programs provide ideas for other chapters to use when planning programs, and they promote attendance and involvement of members and prospective members.

Eligibility

Chapters may submit one program from June 1 through May 31 of the most recent program year.

Submission Period

Submit application between June 15- August 15.

Excellence-in-Education Award 2026

It's here! The application form for the Excellence-in-Education (EiE) Award is now open. The Excellence-in-Education (EiE) Award is our highest honor and recognizes educational excellence. **This form has been streamlined with the entire application process combined into one form and one deadline of November 1, 2025.**

The Alpha Delta Kappa Foundation recognizes the Texas recipient with a monetary award of \$500 and an EiE pin. A nomination narrative is required and can be provided by the applicant (self-nominated), a member, or a chapter designee. This narrative should include why the person is a worthy candidate and include a statement regarding the relationship to the nominee. This award increases visibility and promotes AΔK at the state, regional and International levels.

Consider nominating your outstanding AΔK active educator Sister! For complete details visit alphadeltakappa.org and follow this path: Membership > Awards & Recognitions > Excellence-in-Education Award.



By Andrea Plowman, Excellence-in-Education Chair

Fraternity Education

“What is the meaning behind the Chapter Pearls?”

Did you know that each chapter is a participant in the pearl achievement awards for membership? Each year from June 1 to May 31, this achievement award “recognizes those chapters who implement the principles of sound membership development through effective communication of recruitment and retention.” (cited from Alpha Delta Kappa Website). Chapters can receive certificates for having up to seven pearls if all the criteria are met. What is that criteria?

Here are the categories that could get your chapter to the top of the pearl achievement:

1. **Maintain Chapter Number:** The chapter must maintain the number of members throughout the year – without member loss. So, if someone leaves the chapter, the members are tasked with recruiting another member to maintain the number of members originally in the chapter at the beginning of the annual year start of June 1.
2. **Initiate or reinstate members:** Gaining new members in addition to maintaining the original chapter number is part of this category.
3. **Annual Chapter Highlights – H-114:** The chapter must make sure that this JotForm is completed, usually by the Chapter Secretary, by June 30.
4. **Chapter attendance to Regional Conferences or International Convention depending on the year:** Having a chapter member attend each of these events will give the chapter a pearl. (Virtual attendance is also acceptable!)
5. **Chapter Needs Assessment (CNA):** Chapter’s original CNA needs to be completed during the first year of the biennium with a reflection of the CNA during the second year of the biennium. This is a JotForm with a deadline of October 15 (first year of biennium) and with the deadline of reflection on May 15 (second year of biennium). This form is usually completed by the Chapter President and the Chapter Membership Chair.
6. **Altruistic report:** The Chapter Altruistic Chair must get the chapter altruistic information on a JotForm by the deadline of March 15.
7. **Chapter International Teacher Education (ITE) payment:** This deadline is January 1 each year.

Once these 7 categories are met each year, the chapter can celebrate and receive the honor of being a seven pearl chapter. Use these as guidelines as a challenge to reinforce and make your chapter proud to be a part of the Alpha Delta Kappa world.



Nancy Carr, IPP

Chapter Treasurer News

Thank you to all for completing the Chapter Financial Summary. The next important due date is October 15 for the 990N e-postcard. The International website has instructions on filing the e-postcard. You will use the same login information as last year. Headquarters can also assist in filing the e-postcard. To get started go to <https://sa.www4.irs.gov/epostcard/>. The IRS now uses two-step authentication. If you do not already have an account, you will need to create one. Chapters completing the e-postcard will earn a pearl.

Let's finish this biennium strong.

Katie Loftus,

State Treasurer

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cactx

children's advocacy
centers™ of texas

Due Dates

- August 15: Applications for Distinguished Program Recognition due
- **October: Alpha Delta Kappa Month**
- October 1: Classroom Grant deadline
- October 1: KAPPAN submission deadline
- **October 15: 990-N IRS E-Postcard deadline**
- October 15: Regional Mini Fall Scholarship application deadline
- **November 15: Texas Mini M.E.T Scholarship due**
- November 15: Innovation Grant Deadline
- **June 11-13, 2026: Texas State Convention, League City, Texas!!!**
- **July 20-22, 2026: South Central Regional Conference, New Orleans, LA**

Making a Difference...and Enjoying Sisterhood in Austin!





