

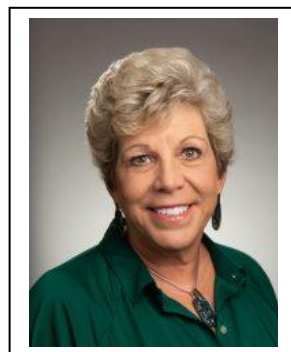
News and Notes

December 2025



State President's Message

As we approach the close of another meaningful year, I want to take a moment to send heartfelt gratitude and warm holiday wishes to each of you. Being part of Alpha Delta Kappa means more than shared meetings — it means community, connection, support, and the kind of encouragement only sisters can give.



This winter season, may you find time to rest, reflect, and enjoy the company of loved ones. May your holidays be filled with joy, peace, laughter, and hope for the coming year. Whatever traditions you observe — or new ways you choose to celebrate — know that you are a treasured member of our organization.

Thank you for your passion, your dedication to education, and for all the ways you contribute to our sisterhood and to those we serve. **Your commitment makes a significant difference.**

Wishing you a season full of warmth, kindness, and renewal. Looking forward to all we'll accomplish together in the New Year.

Happy Holidays and joyous blessings to you and yours,

Shelly Couch

Happy Holidays from the State Board



Front row: Nancy Carr—Immediate Past President, Shelly Couch—State President, Robin Miller-President Elect, Elisa Torres—Vice President Membership.

Back row: Katie Loftus—Treasurer, Nancy Hutchinson—Corresponding Secretary, Rose Champion-Chaplain, Robin Buchanan-Harrington—Sergeant-at-Arms, Frosty (aka Katy Mathews—International Executive 2 Year Board Member), Becky Rachel—Secretary, Olga Cisneros—PCCP, Melynn Bowen—Historian.



An Alpha Delta Kappa Christmas Party

If your chapter is having a gift exchange this month, you might want to consider the LEFT RIGHT Game. It seems the State Executive Board members have been busy this Christmas helping Santa!

DIRECTIONS: Everyone sits in a circle holding the present you brought or is provided. Someone reads the story. Every time you hear “LEFT”, pass the gift to your Left. Every time you hear “RIGHT”, pass the gift to your Right. The gift you are holding at the end of the story is yours to open and keep.

It was the night **RIGHT** before Christmas, and Santa was preparing for his busiest night of the year. His elves Robin M., Nancy C., and Elisa made sure the sleigh was polished, the reindeer were harnessed, and the gifts were stacked high. Santa checked the clock and called out to other elves, Becky, Nancy H., and Katie. “Everything is going **RIGHT**, isn’t it? We can’t have anything **LEFT** undone!”

The elves nodded eagerly, though Katie whispered, “Did we pack the last gift?” Becky replied, “I think we **LEFT** it on the table!”

Santa climbed into his sleigh and grabbed the reins, ready to go. But then he paused. “Oh no!” he exclaimed. “I’ve **LEFT** my list in the **LEFT** pocket of my jacket back in the workshop!” Of course, the elves shook their heads in disbelief.

He hurried back to grab it, muttering, “I can’t get anything **RIGHT** tonight!” As he rummaged through his jacket, Mrs. Claus appeared with a plate of cookies. “Santa,” she said with a sigh, “you’ve also **LEFT** your snack behind!” She handed the cookies to Melynn, another elf. “Run **RIGHT** after him and make sure he gets these!” Melynn sprinted out, weaving to the **LEFT** and **RIGHT** through piles of toys.

After a rough start, Santa finally took off into the sky, the list safely in hand. “This time, everything will go just **RIGHT**, he said confidently. Robin B., Rose, and Olga, some of the other elves were riding along with Santa. But as he soared over a snowy town, he suddenly gasped. “I’ve gone **RIGHT** past Shelly’s house! She’s on the nice list!”



Fraternity Education

What is the difference between sustaining, limited, honorary and life members?

Besides being an active member of our organization, there are other categories that Alpha Delta Kappa has for any unusual circumstances for members. These different categories include Sustaining, Limited, Life, and Honorary Membership. Let's separate the categories.

The KAPPAN recently had an article that talked about the importance of sustaining sisters. In fact, the number of sustaining members is about 400 across the country. According to the "Membership Development Manual" or MDM and the Alpha Delta Kappa website, a sustaining sister is an "active sister not associated with a chapter; however, is affiliated with an S/P/N – State/Province/Nation – or International chapter. The member pays all financial obligations to the S/P/N treasurer." A sustaining member may want to maintain their membership but can't participate in their original chapter either due to illness or moving a distance from their chapter. Sometimes a member might decide to become sustaining due to a chapter disbandment or other circumstance.

Limited members become such when they are "incapable of fulfilling her obligations and responsibilities as an active member of Alpha Delta Kappa, a chapter may request her membership status be changed to that of limited member." A limited member may be incapable of fulfilling her obligations and responsibilities especially if she is challenged physically or mentally to prevent her from being involved in chapter activities. Limited members are "exempt from any financial obligations yet may choose to purchase a yearly subscription to the KAPPAN.

The Life Member category includes a member that "meets all active membership obligations and responsibilities; covers international dues until joining the omega chapter and pays no international dues remaining on this status until joining the Omega Chapter."

An Honorary Member is usually one "awarded by chapter, S/P/N or International for outstanding contributions, ITE scholars are eligible to be nominated for honorary membership by a chapter or S/P/N. Honorary members do not have to be actively engaged in the education profession and pay honorary dues.

Go to the Alpha Delta Kappa website for any more information or forms to fill out for each category.

Nancy Carr, TX IPP



Membership Matters

CHRISTMAS ISN'T CHRISTMAS 'TIL . . .YOU FEEL IT IN YOUR HEART

There's a special kind of warmth that fills the air when Christmas comes around. It's more than just the glowing twinkle lights or the smell of cookies in the oven. It is the joy that we hold deep inside, reminding us of love, gratitude and togetherness.

For me, Christmas is not about wrapping paper and gifts under the tree. For me it's the family and friends gathered round sharing in laughter and meals and making connections that make the small moments feel brighter. It's the way people slow down, smile more and remember what is truly important.

The true spirit of Christmas lives in kindness- the extra thought, the gentle word and the helping hand. When we share that spirit, we spread the light that lasts beyond the season.

I have enjoyed visiting with chapters about their CNA goals reflections. You are all doing amazing things in your chapters for our organization. There are still just a few chapters that I have not been able to contact. Be on the lookout for my call—I'll be doing that in the next few days.



Elisa Torres, VP Membership



LOOKING FOR OFFICERS

FOR THE 2026-2028 STATE BOARD

Have you ever wondered if you would like to offer for a position on the state board? Have you ever had that nagging feeling that says offer for a state board position but thought oh I could never do that? Well, I'm here to tell you that YOU are a valuable part of our organization and have many talents that are needed on the state board. Being on the state board is a wonderful experience with wonderful ladies and chances to meet even more around the state. So yes, you can do it! Please offer for a state board position and share your time and talents with our wonderful Alpha Delta Kappa Texas sisters.

Applications can be found on page 14 of this newsletter.

Below are the requirements to offer for the state board:

STATE OFFICERS

The state officers of Texas shall be president, president-elect, immediate past president, vice president for membership, secretary, corresponding secretary, treasurer, historian, sergeant-at-arms, chaplain and president of the council of chapter presidents.

Eligibility

- A candidate for any office must have been a member of Alpha Delta Kappa for at least three (3) years prior to her election.
- A candidate for any office shall have served as president of a chapter and shall have attended at least one state convention.
- A candidate for president or president-elect shall have attended at least one International convention.
- A candidate for president or president-elect shall have served at least one term on the state executive board as an elected officer.
- A candidate shall attend the convention in which she is an eligible candidate.
- In the event an eligible candidate cannot attend the convention at which she is nominated to be elected and installed, the delegates shall vote to accept the candidate for election by a two-thirds (2/3) vote ceremony.
- A state president or president-elect shall not be a chapter or district officer.

Robin Miller, Texas President-Elect



Chapter Treasurer News

If you or your chapter are making donations to St. Jude's or the Alzheimer's Association, please let me know the amount so I can keep track of our donations for International.

Donations to Children's Advocacy need to be reported to Altruistic Chair Ellen Schmear (Texas Epsilon Omicron) eschmear@gmail.com

Dues are now due. Dues are as follows:

International dues are \$40 per member

State dues are \$15.00 per member

Your chapter's district dues are paid to your district treasurer. (amounts vary)

International dues may be paid individually or as a chapter. They are paid directly to International. Remember, each chapter **MUST SUBMIT** their list of chapter names and dues included in the check payment. This informs HQ staff how to process your chapter dues properly. This list of your chapter names is called the "Dues Tracker." Downloading this shares each member's name and owed dues amount for you to confirm when sending in your chapter dues. This video of 5 minutes shares with you how to find, download, and print this document to submit with your chapter check. View here: <https://youtu.be/cZ-d7S-VRKI>

Also, each chapter must also send \$20 for the ITE Scholarship. This is due by January 1, 2026.

State dues may be paid two ways. Chapters may pay through Zelle (ID: texasadkstateboard@gmail.com) or mail a check payable to Alpha Delta Kappa to me: Katie Loftus, 302 N Anna Drive, Allen, Texas 75013. Please use the Texas Dues Payment Form below when paying state dues.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Katie Loftus

State Treasurer

Katie96ag@yahoo.com



Texas Dues Payment Form

<u>Chapter</u>	-		
<u>Chapter Treasurer</u>	-		
<u>Email Address</u>	-		
<u>Chapter President</u>	-		
<u>Email Address</u>	-		
<u>Number of Members</u>	-	<u>Members Paid</u>	-
<u>Amount Paid</u>	-	<u>Check Number</u>	-
<u>Names of sisters who haven't paid</u>	-		

It's Time for...

The Mary Elizabeth Taliaferro Scholarship

Happy December y'all!! I hope all of you are doing well and enjoying the hustle and bustle of this holiday season. It's a great time to apply for the Mary Elizabeth Taliaferro Scholarship. **The scholarship for \$1,000 is to be used for graduate study or additional certification.** The application deadline is February 15, 2026.

Have a great day and fill out those forms!! (Check out the last page of this newsletter for the application!)



Johnna West, Scholarship Chair



'Tis the Season...for SCAMMING!!!

As members of Alpha Delta Kappa, many of us stay active in our communities, use technology to stay connected, and regularly communicate with friends and family. Unfortunately, scammers often target active professionals and retirees, using increasingly sophisticated tricks to gain personal information or money. **This happened last week to our Texas State Board. Luckily Robin Buchanan-Harrington was alert and knew what to do!** Staying aware is the best defense.

Common Types of Scams

- **Phishing Emails:** Messages that appear to come from banks, delivery services, or even acquaintances, asking you to click a link or provide personal details.
- **Phone Impersonation Scams:** Callers pretending to be IRS representatives, Medicare agents, or tech-support staff. They often create a sense of urgency.
- **Gift Card or Money Transfer Requests:** Scammers may pose as friends, relatives, or organization members and insist you purchase gift cards or send money immediately.
- **"Account Problem" Texts:** Short messages claiming your account is locked or a payment failed, urging you to click a link.
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How to Stay Safe

- **Verify before responding.** If you get an unexpected request for money or information—even if the sender seems familiar, contact the person or organization directly using a verified phone number.
- **Don't click suspicious links.** Hover over links to check their true destination and never enter login information through an unexpected email or text.
- **Avoid giving personal information by phone.** Government agencies and reputable companies will not pressure you for Social Security numbers, bank details, or passwords.
- **Use strong passwords and enable two-factor authentication.**
- **Hang up on threatening or urgent calls.** Scammers rely on fear and pressure. A legitimate agency will never demand immediate payment.
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If You Think You've Been Targeted

Report the incident to your local authorities, your bank (if financial information was involved), and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). Sharing what happened can help protect other Alpha Delta Kappa members as well.

Staying vigilant helps ensure our sisterhood remains connected, confident, and safe in an increasingly digital world.

World Understanding Update

"**Making A Better World Initiative**" program and application jot form will be opening up on January 1st, 2026, and remain open until cut off on March 1st. 2026.

Below is the link to the Top Five Recognitions. Make sure you check it out!

<https://www.alphadeltakappa.org/ADK/ADKMembers/Foundation/Making-a-Better-World/MakingaBetterWorld.aspx?hkey=2d7d910a-0bc5-4580-93b1-7e3bcffbb2cb>



Educators are Heroes Membership Grant

2026 Winter/Spring Cohort

Focus: Celebrating educators and building relationships with potential members.

Funds: The funds for this grant will be given to chapters who are committed to having an event for potential members **prior to May 15, 2025**. Chapters chosen will receive a check of \$75 to buy items for their event. Funds for this grant will be sent after chapter member(s) attend one of the Training Sessions. Checks will be mailed to the chapter treasurer after the Training.

The International Membership Committee (IMC) encourages the use of the relationship-building conversations to help sisters find what potential educators might be looking for in membership. As part of this grant, chapter leaders will attend a Training Session via ZOOM to learn how to plan a social event that focuses on relationship-building and value. This training will also provide an opportunity to brainstorm ideas with leaders across our organization.

* First priority for this grant will be given to those chapters who have not previously received the Educators are Heroes Grant. All chapters are encouraged to apply!

TIMELINE

January 9 - JotForm closes. Chapters will be notified of acceptance within one week.

Training Session - Thursday, January 15 @ 6:30 pm CT or Thursday, January 22 @ 5:00 pm CT - At least one chapter member must attend at least one training. All interested chapter members are welcome to attend.

- Meeting agenda:
 - Tenets and value of relationship-building conversations
 - Planning for and executing a social event that focuses on relationship-building and values
 - Strategies for following up with potential members
- Checks will be sent out after the meeting and should arrive the week of February 2 ●

S/P/N leaders from the chapters involved are encouraged to attend

Check-In Support Session 1 - Wednesday, March 25 @ 6:30 pm CT - Material will be reviewed and chapters will have the opportunity to share their plans for a prospective member social, ask questions, and gather ideas from other chapters in the cohort.

Check-In Support Session 2 - Sunday, April 19 @ 6:30 pm CT - Chapters will share the status of their prospective member social, get questions answered, and gather ideas/support from other sisters.

May 15 - Deadline to have the social event for prospective members

Reflection Session - Wednesday, May 27 @ 6:30 pm CT - One or more chapter members are asked to attend this event to share their experience and to gather ideas and insight from other chapters. • Meeting agenda:

- Chapters share about the prospective member social
- Share successes and challenges
- Strategies for implementing the New Member Onboarding process

The 2026 Educators are Heroes Grant Application JotForm can be found on the international website > Chapter Officers > Chapter Training Tools or by clicking the link below (must be signed into the website). <https://form.jotform.com/253155328587162>

Reach out to Kathy Beatty (kathybeattyadk@gmail.com), International Vice President for Membership, with questions.

Due Dates

- January 1: Chapter ITE Payment due
- January 1: KAPPAN article submission due
- January 1: Second Round Regional Leadership Applications due
- January 24: International Teacher Education (ITE) Virtual Gathering
- January 31: Regional Professional Development Scholarship Application deadline
- **February 15: Texas State Officer Candidate Application**
- **February 15: Mary Elizabeth Scholarship due**
- February 15: Fine Arts Grant Application due
- February 15: ARGO Scholarship Applications due
- **June 11-13, 2026: Texas State Convention, League City, Texas!!!**
- **July 20-22, 2026: South Central Regional Conference, New Orleans, LA**





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



Shehnaz Naz
Bangladesh



Sangsupa Penrach
Thailand



Hengly Te
Cambodia



Nondumiso Thango
South Africa

January 24, 2026 –Enjoy the panel discussion as these extraordinary women respond to questions about their culture, education and goals.

Join the Zoom on

Making a Difference...and Enjoying Sisterhood!





TEXAS ALPHA DELTA KAPPA
STATE OFFICER CANDIDATE APPLICATION

Name:

Candidate for the office of:

Alpha Delta Kappa Information:

- **Chapter:**
- **Location:**
- **Date of Initiation**

State Conventions attended by year:

International Conventions attended by year:

Regional Conferences attended by year:

Chapter offices held and committees on which you served:

State offices held and/or committees on which you have served:

Other Alpha Delta Kappa Information:

Non-Alpha Delta Kappa Information:

Attach a 2X3 inch photo of yourself in this space.

Complete application using 12 pt. Arial font and print it out. Use this form only.

Completed application form should be sent by February 15, 2026, to:

LaRae Witsaman
Candidate Qualifications Chairman
3309 Roundup Road
Fort Worth, TX. 77179

Texas Alpha Delta Kappa
Mary Elizabeth Taliaferro Scholarship Application

(\$1000 to be used for graduate work or additional certification)

Due date February 15, 2025

Name _____

Address _____

Phone(s) _____

Email _____

Chapter _____ District _____

Educational Goal: _____

College/University _____

Employment History for 2020-2025:

Have you received other AΔK Scholarships? _____ Date and amount received _____

Attachments Check List

_____ Two (2) letters of recommendation

_____ Personal letter from applicant stating purpose for requesting scholarship, including any honors and involvement in professional and community organizations

_____ Certified college/university transcript

_____ Photograph

Signature _____

Submit application and all documentation via US Mail with tracking capability to the State Scholarship Chairman:

Johnna West

524 Vonda

Sulphur Springs, TX 75482

Jewest98@gmail.com