

# News

# and

# Notes

February 2026



## State President's Message

As we're nearing the end of this biennium, we need to revisit some of our upcoming awards. The *Chapter Merit Award* has specific tasks which your chapter should complete during the second year of the biennium. Our State PCCP, Olga Cisneros, keeps track of these by reading your chapter newsletter and minutes. By focusing on these tasks, it gives us a common purpose for keeping our organization relevant and strong.



At the state convention, we will be honoring the *Texas Excellence in Education* winner. Texas has two additional awards that will be presented at the convention. Guidelines and applications for *Texas Alpha Delta Kappa of Distinction* (an AΔK member) and *Texas Woman of Honor* (a non AΔK member) are found in this newsletter's attachments.

Speaking of the convention, we're ready to get things rolling. The theme is "Making a Difference at the Harbour". We've got some exciting things planned! Registration forms are included in the additional attachment to this newsletter. We also have online registration that takes credit and debit cards.

We're making a difference...we're Texas Alpha Delta Kappa

Shelly Couch

# Texas Chapter Merit Award

This award will focus on the Texas Alpha Delta Kappa goals in the categories of communication, membership, altruism, and world understanding. These are important for keeping our organization strong and relevant in today's world.

If each chapter accomplishes all the following tasks and becomes a six-merit chapter, Texas Alpha Delta Kappa will be making a difference, not only for their chapter, but also for all Texas sisters. At the state convention in 2026, we will recognize chapters with these awards.

## **Merit #1**

**Communication:** Send a minimum of six newsletters OR chapter minutes each year of the biennium to the state president, the state president-elect, the president of the chapter of council presidents, and the district mentor.

## **Merit #2**

**Membership:** Initiate or reinstate one member each year of the biennium OR host a membership event—includes either a tea, reception, party, or other fun event.

## **Merit #3**

**State Altruistic Project:** Have a chapter program dealing with Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas OR participate in one of the Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas fundraisers OR make a project donation or monetary contribution to the Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas.

## **Merit #4**

**World Understanding:** Have a minimum of one world understanding program each biennium.

## **Merit #5** (First year of the biennium only)

**Chapter Policies and Procedures and Official Policy Statement:** Send revised chapter policies and procedures AND official policy statement to the district president by March 1, 2025.

## **Merit #6** (Second year of the biennium only)

**Nomination/Application Process--Pick one or more:** Nominate an outstanding Texas Alpha Delta Kappa educator for the Excellence in Education (EIE) Award OR nominate an outstanding community leader to be considered by your district to be the district nominee for Texas Alpha Delta Kappa Woman of Honor OR nominate a sister for Texas Alpha Delta Kappa of Distinction OR have someone from your chapter apply for any Alpha Delta Kappa Scholarship or Grant (this may be from the first or second year of the biennium).

## **Educators are Heroes Membership Grant Winners**

Five Texas chapters were recipients of the 2026 Winter Educators are Heroes Membership Grants. Each chapter will receive \$75 that will be used towards a social event for prospective members.

Congratulations to **Texas Beta, Texas Beta Omicron, Texas Gamma Psi, Texas Gamma Xi, and Texas Sigma.**

# IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

Presidents and Altruistic Chairs, it's time to get ready to report all the wonderful contributions your chapter has made this year!

- The jot form will be active on February 15.
- The due date for a pearl is March 15.
- The form will be active until March 31. We want to have all members represented in the accounting. Forms submitted after March 15th will not receive a pearl.

Chapters, please make sure you use the CHAPTER report form, not S/P/N. Also, please double check you choose the correct chapter on the drop-down box. There was some confusion on it last year.

Attached is a power point from Nancy Thompson, the SCR Altruistic Chair.

If you have questions, please contact me at [eschmear@gmail.com](mailto:eschmear@gmail.com)

817-269-9785 or Nancy at [nancythompson48@gmail.com](mailto:nancythompson48@gmail.com) 913-709-0048

Thanks!

Ellen Schmear

State Altruistic Chair for Texas



## Chapter Treasurer News

May your February be filled with love and warmth.

Thank you to all that have already paid dues. If you haven't, please do so ASAP.

As of February 1, dues are late and will be assessed a \$5 late fee for International and a \$3 late fee for state. **International dues need to be mailed to:**

Alpha Delta Kappa, 1615 West 92nd St., Kansas City, MO 64114-3210

**State dues need to be mailed to:**

Katie Loftus, 302 N Anna Drive, Allen, Texas 75013. Please indicate the chapter when paying dues.

Remember, in all the world, there is no hearts like the ADK hearts.

Katie Loftus

State Treasurer



# 2026 Texas AΔK State Convention

**South Shore Harbour Resort and Conference Center  
League City, Texas**

**Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>**



Please join us for the 2026 Texas AΔK State Convention where we'll be "Making a Difference at the Harbour!"

Convention registration is included in this email in the additional attachments to the newsletter. Registration may also be done online at

<https://texasalphadeltakap.wixsite.com/txadk>

You may also start booking your hotel rooms! The cut-off date for the AΔK block is May 20<sup>th</sup>. Here is the link: [Alpha Delta Kappa 2026 Convention - Booking Link](#)

TO USE THE LINK:

CLICK ON THE LINK AND IT TAKES YOU STRAIGHT TO YOUR ROOM BLOCK.

VERY IMPORTANT - USE THE CALENDARS TO SELECT YOUR ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DATES.

SELECT A ROOM TYPE.

ENTER YOUR INFORMATION INCLUDING EMAIL ADDRESS.

A DETAILED CONFIRMATION WILL BE SENT TO THE EMAIL ADDRESS ENTERED.

In addition to electing new state officers, we will be voting on the Texas Alpha Delta Kappa of Distinction and Texas Woman of Honor. We have some important bylaw changes to vote on also. Remember, each chapter has 2 delegates eligible for voting and an alternate. In addition, past state presidents, committee chairs, and district president (or representative). Your vote matters!

*See you at the Harbour this June!*



## **Your Time Is Almost Up!! Join the State Board Applications due February 15**

Everyone has something to offer! You can be a “Star” and share your leadership skills, unique ideas and wonderful personality on the state board. We need YOU! Join us, we’d love to have you.

### **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.
- 2• 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.
- If elected, the absent officer shall have her name read in the officer installation ceremony.
- A state president or president-elect shall not be a chapter or district officer.

Robin Miller  
Texas President-Elect



\*\*\*Make sure you check the attachments to this newsletter for applications!

# Capturing Our Biennium Together

As we head into the home stretch of this biennium, I hope your chapter has begun capturing and preparing the story of your journey together!

Many of you have already been gathering materials, and your efforts truly mean so much. Your work helps preserve the rich history of our organization and allows future generations to see the spirit, service, and joy that define our chapters.

This biennium, the submission process has been simplified with a **standardized form** for completing your chapter's written history. An email with detailed instructions was sent earlier this past month to all chapter presidents and chapter historians. If you have questions or need additional information, please let me know.

Along with the written history, chapters will submit **5–7 high-quality photos** from chapter events, service projects, and fellowship opportunities, including **at least one photo of your officers**. Instructions for submitting your photos are coming soon.

Thank you for your continued dedication to documenting this biennium. A special thank you to the chapter that has already submitted its history—we so appreciate your leadership! We can't wait to see each chapter's story reflected in our archives. **Your stories matter!**

**Melynn Bowen**



[melynn.bowen1213@gmail.com](mailto:melynn.bowen1213@gmail.com)

## Fraternity Education

I saw this Fraternity Education Activity in the Arkansas State January/February 2026 Newsletter and thought it would be ideal to share in our February Newsletter – especially since we are going through some cold weather...Just an idea that you might want to try in your chapter meetings...

(BTW, you can find the membership information for this activity on the international website. After logging in, click on Members Only, then click All Members. Under Member Documents & Forms, click on AΔK Glossary.)

Give each member a piece of paper with snowflakes different in appearance. The image above can be used, as it is not copyrighted, or you might want to find or create your own.

Beneath the image, list Alpha Delta Kappa's 7 groups of "Anniversary Membership." Ask members to identify the number of years of membership for each group. Or list the number of membership years for each group and ask members to name the "Anniversary."

Example: "Silver Anniversary" Answer: 25 years

OR "25 years" Answer: Silver Anniversary

Review the correct information for the 7 Membership Anniversaries with your chapter and be sure to point out that membership years for each "group" do not have to be consecutive!

Relate this "snowflake" activity to AΔK membership. Explain that, although no two snowflakes are exactly alike, scientists and researchers have grouped them according to common shapes. Just like snowflakes are grouped, each chapter member belongs to one of the special membership groups we have seen today, and just like snowflakes, no two sisters are exactly alike. Every AΔK member is "unique" and brings her own special qualities to our organization.

For more information, search key word "snowflakes" on <https://www.noaa.gov>

From Arkansas State Fraternity Educ Chair ~Karen Mullenix

**Nancy Carr, TX IPP**



## Scholarship News

Happy Valentine's Day everyone!! I hope you are staying warm in front of the fire! Please remember that it is time to apply for the **Mary Elizabeth Taliaferro Scholarship** due by February 15, 2026. It is for \$1000 to be used toward graduate study or an additional certification.

Congratulations to the **Fall Mini-Met** winners of November: **Jennifer LeWinter** (Gamma Nu), **Stacy Redding** (Beta Omicron), **Candy Richardson** (Beta Nu), **Vicky Suarez** (Beta Chi), and **Glenda Laney** (Epsilon Sigma). Thanks for applying!

Enjoy your week and fill out the Mary Elizabeth Taliaferro scholarship form that is in the additional attachments to this newsletter for you!

Remember to Make sure to include Yourself in the list of things You need to take care of this week  !

**Johnna West, Scholarship Chair**



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.

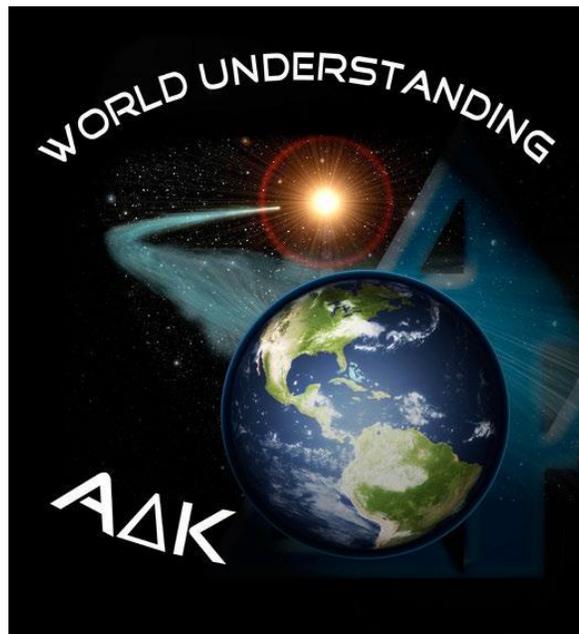
For more information about this initiative, please visit the [Making a Better World](#) landing page on the [Alpha Delta Kappa International Website](#).

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,

Adelina A. Christensen

South Central Region World Understanding Chairman 2025-2027



# Ignite Membership Grant

This is a reminder to submit an application for the 2026 Ignite Membership Grant for S/P/Ns **prior to February 6** at 11:59 pm Central Time

Please take note of the resources in the Resource Library > SPN Officers > SPN Training Tools > Ignite SPN Membership Campaign folder. It is important that S/P/Ns understand the full picture and expectations for this grant before submitting an application.

In the attached document you will find additional grant information, the meeting dates for the grant training, and the JotForm link to apply. The JotForm can also be found in the Resource Library > SPN Officers > S/P/N Training Tools > Ignite SPN Membership Campaign on the website.

If you have any questions or concerns about the grant prior to submitting your application, please do not hesitate to contact me. This is a new opportunity, and we want to support S/P/Ns as they make the decision whether to apply or not and get feedback along the way.

*Kathy Beatty*

International Vice President for Membership



**Alpha Delta Kappa**

*Empowering women educators to advance inclusion,  
educational excellence, altruism, and world understanding.*

## Due Dates

- **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
- **February 15: Altruistic Report JotForm opens**
- March 15: Texas Woman of Honor and AΔK of Distinction applications due
- March 15: Altruistic Reports due
- **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!



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