

News and Notes

January 2026



State President's Message

Happy New Year!

As we begin 2026, we can't help but reflect with gratitude on the many ways our Texas chapters made a difference this past year. Through service, leadership, and altruism, each member helped strengthen our mission and support one another—impact that truly matters and continues to ripple outward.

The new year brings fresh energy and renewed purpose as we come to the final six months of the biennium. Our goals ahead focus on growing membership, supporting our initiatives, and finding meaningful ways to serve our communities and profession. Every idea, every effort, and every voice play an important role in what we accomplish.

As we begin this year, we also look ahead with excitement toward 2026 and the opportunities it will bring. Together, we will continue building on our strong foundation and creating a future we are proud of.

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

Shelly Couch



Chapter Treasurer News

Happy New Year!!!!

DUES ARE DUE!!!!!!

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

International and state dues are late after January 31st and will be assessed a \$5 late fee for International and a \$3 late fee for state if received after that date.

International dues are \$40 per member and need to be mailed to:

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

State dues are \$15.00 per member and need to be mailed to:

Katie Loftus, 302 N Anna Drive, Allen, Texas 75013.

Please indicate the chapter when paying dues.

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

Membership Designations that Impact International Dues

1. **Life:** the member does not pay International Dues; she pays S/P/N, chapter and district (if applicable) dues.
2. **Limited:** the member has no financial obligations to Alpha Delta Kappa. A limited member may request a printed copy of the KAPPAN for a subscription fee of \$9.00.
3. **Honorary:** This person, not in education, pays no dues, fees or assessments. The chapter or S/P/N pays the \$9.00 annual honorary International due.

Chapter presidents please pass this information on to your chapter treasurer. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Katie Loftus

State Treasurer

Katie96ag@yahoo.com



Texas Woman of Honor and

Texas Alpha Delta Kappa of Distinction

At each state convention of Texas Alpha Delta Kappa, we have two special awards presented: Texas Woman of Honor and Texas Alpha Delta Kappa of Distinction. A woman will be elected by a majority vote of registered delegates to be recognized for each of these awards.

Texas Woman of Honor has the following guidelines:

1. Is not a member of Alpha Delta Kappa
2. Has served Texas by distinguishing herself in public service, in the arts, in science, in education, or in a special endeavor worthy of recognition.
3. This woman will be chosen by chapters and presented to their district. Each district will be able to nominate one person for the honor.

Texas Alpha Delta Kappa of Distinction has the following guidelines:

1. Be a member of Alpha Delta Kappa in good standing
2. Have served as an officer or committee member above the chapter level.
3. Have attended at least two state conventions, one regional conference, and one International convention.
4. Have made notable contributions to the advancement of Texas Alpha Delta Kappa
5. Not be a candidate for state office at the time of election of Texas Alpha Delta Kappa of Distinction.
6. Not be currently serving on the State Executive Board of Texas Alpha Delta Kappa.

Keep an eye out in the February News and Notes for applications and more information for these two awards.



Texas AΔK
2026 State Convention
June 11-13
League City, Texas
South Shore Harbour Resort

Please plan to join us as we celebrate "Making a Difference at the Harbour!" Hotel registration information and convention registration will be sent in the next newsletter! Be looking for it!

Chapter Officers for the New Biennium

Now is the time of year that we begin thinking about officers for the next biennium. Some chapters struggle to fill leadership positions. As your nominating committee meets to consider officers, there are a few options other than the traditional leadership roles.

Co-officers are becoming more and more popular. Several Texas chapters have co-officers. Some chapters have co-presidents, while others have all their offices hold co-positions. Co-presidents have been done in a couple of different ways. In Delta Beta, one president writes the newsletter, while the other president writes the agenda. At meetings, they alternate presiding over items on the agenda. In Epsilon Omicron, one president writes the newsletter and the other writes the agenda and presides over the meeting.

Katie Loftus is the president of Epsilon Lambda. She writes newsletters and agendas, leads the business part of the meetings, and handles the presidential paperwork. For meetings, however, members sign up for a month and are responsible for the location and program for the meeting. They also add a blurb in the newsletter. Sometimes members partner with another member and take a month.



Mary Elizabeth Taliaferro Scholarship

Now is the time to apply for the Mary Elizabeth Taliaferro Scholarship. This **\$1000** scholarship is to be used for graduate study or additional certification. It is due February 15, 2026, to Johnna West, State Scholarship Chair.

The application form is included in this newsletter.

Fraternity Education

The Importance of your Chapter Banner

Every two years at the state convention all the local Texas chapters are asked to bring and present their banners during the Parade of Banners. Why? Why do we encourage this? Why do we even have banners? Have you ever thought about your chapter banner and what it represents?

The Texas state banner includes the yellow rose and the Alpha Delta Kappa tri-symbol with the Texas state outline painted with the colors of the state flag in the background. The banner is a visual to show the pride we have in our state.

Your chapter banner shows pride in your local chapter and shows unity with the sisters in your chapter. Each banner is unique and beautiful. Be thinking about getting your banner ready for the state convention from June 11 – 13, 2026 in League City, TX.

Nancy Carr, IPP



It's Time to Offer for a State Office!

At the state convention this summer, you will be selecting new leadership for Texas Alpha Delta Kappa. The officers you will be electing are President-Elect, 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.

Now is the time to encourage sisters in your chapter and district to take an opportunity to share their talents with Texas Alpha Delta Kappa! The application form is included in this newsletter. It's due February 15.

Due Dates

- 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**

Message from our State Chaplain

Hello ADK sisters, hope everyone had a great Christmas Day with your families. Hope great and sweet new memories were made this past week. Celebrate the last week of 2025 and may we all have a blessed and happy New Year 2026.

I will be needing you all's assistance before we close this biennium 2026. I need your assistance for a list of any sister(s) that have joined the Omega Chapter.

I will need the following:

1. The name(s) of our sister(s) that have joined the Omega Chapter.
2. Name of District/Chapter where our sister(s) was a member.
3. An address of a family member to mail a "Sympathy Card" to their families.
4. Date they joined the Omega Chapter.

Please help me on this task to prepare our Omega gathering and to recognize our ADK sisters at OUR State Convention in June 2026. Thank you for your assistance on this very important task. I would like this important task completed by the third week in February.

Looking forward to seeing as many as possible at our State Convention.

Rose Champion, Texas State Chaplain

Capturing Our Biennium Together

As we move past the holiday season and into the new year, it's the perfect time for chapters to continue preparing their biennial archival submissions. Many of you have already been intentional about gathering materials, and your efforts are truly appreciated.

Our archives preserve the rich history of our organization and ensure that future generations can see the spirit, service, and joy that define our chapters. This biennium, the process has been streamlined with a **standardized form** for submitting your chapter's written history. This form will be shared with chapter presidents and chapter historians via email very soon.

In addition to the written history, chapters will submit **5–7 high-quality photos** representing chapter events, service projects, and fellowship opportunities, including **at least one photo of your officers**. Detailed submission instructions and deadlines will be shared soon.

Thank you for your continued dedication to documenting the memories and milestones of this biennium. We look forward to seeing each chapter's story reflected in our archives.



Melynn Bowen, State Historian

Recording Your Alpha Delta Kappa History: 2024–2026

This form is intended to serve as a helpful guide as you document your chapter's history during the 2024–2026 biennium. While it does not need to be submitted to International Headquarters, we encourage you to use it to ensure important moments and accomplishments are captured.

Once completed, please email the document to the Texas State Historian:

Melynn Bowen melynn.bowen1213@gmail.com
2026

Deadline: May 31,

CHAPTER: _____

Biennium Dates: 2024-2026

International 2025-2027

International President: Conway Blankenship

International President-Elect: Mary Ey

Immediate Past International President: Ann Marie Brown

Executive Director: Christi Smith

International Theme: Evolving Together

International 2023-2025

International President: Ann Marie Brown

International President-Elect: Conway Blankenship

Immediate Past International President: Mollie Acosta

Executive Director: Christi Smith

International Theme: Bridge to the Future

South Central Region: 2024-2026

Regional President: Cheryl Sigel

Regional President-Elect: Betsy Ruckman

Immediate Past Regional President: Nancy Thompson

Regional Vice President for Membership: Carol Johnson

Regional Theme: Be the Joy

Texas State: 2024-2026

TX President: Shelly Couch

TX President Elect: Robin Miller

Immediate Past TX President: Nancy Carr

TX State Theme: Making a Difference

Other TX State Officers:

Vice-President for Membership: Elisa Torres

Secretary: Katy Matthews (2024-2025). Becky Rachel (2025-2026)

Corresponding Secretary: Nancy Hutchinson

Treasurer: Katie Loftus

Historian: Melynn Bowen

Sergeant-at-arms: Robin Buchanan Harrington

Chaplain: Rose Champion

President of the Council of Chapter Presidents (PCCP): Olga Cisneros

Chapter Name: _____

Texas District Number:

Chapter Theme:

Chapter Officers:

Chapter Committees:

Chapter Membership Roster:

Members serving in leadership (officers or committees) outside of the chapter level:

Initiations (names and dates during the biennium):

Omega Chapter (names and dates of any members during the biennium):

A copy of the chapter programs/yearbook:

Chapter Altruistic Project:

Summary of Chapter Altruistic Report:

Chapter Scholarships (recipients and dollar amounts):

Chapter ways and means activities:

Chapter awards (membership, net growth, program award, etc):

Delegates and members attending S/P/N Convention, Regional Conference and International Convention:

Members attending other Alpha Delta Kappa meetings (ITE Weekend, Founders' Day activities, other S/P/N meetings, etc.):

Alpha Delta Kappa Month and Founders' Day activities:

Other information your chapter wishes to include:

Who should receive a copy of the Chapter History, and When?

Once your chapter history is complete, please email it to the Texas State Historian:

Melynn Bowen melynn.bowen1213@gmail.com

Deadline: May 31, 2026

At the first meeting in the fall of the new biennium, the outgoing historian should share a completed copy of the chapter history with each member. One additional copy should be placed in the historian's file and passed along to her successor to help maintain continuity.

TEXAS ALPHA DELTA KAPPA 2026

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

Or lpwitsaman@gmail.com

Texas Alpha Delta Kappa
Mary Elizabeth Taliaferro Scholarship Application

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

Due date February 15, 2026

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

Making a Difference...and Enjoying Sisterhood!



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