

Sibling Revelry

California Alpha Delta Kappa

Volume 1 Issue 1 November 2024



President's Message



Welcome to the first edition of Sibling Revelry, the California Alpha Delta Kappa State Newsletter for the 2024-2026 biennium. My name is Virginia Riding, and I am your current state president. I am a violet sister from Gamma chapter in Fresno, and a past state chaplain, treasurer, and president-elect.

For more information about me and my goals for the next biennium, go to the California website (adkcalif.org; ID and password are both kore). The first page that comes up shares some information about my banner and convention speech. For information about my goals, go to the right-hand side and click on President's Goals.

The name of this publication is a play on the term "sibling rivalry". As Alpha Delta Kappa sisters, we are siblings of a sort. But instead of rivalry, I want us to focus on revelry, which is defined as lively festivities or a celebration. In this and upcoming newsletters, I hope to celebrate you, my Alpha Delta Kappa sisters.

In order for me to do this, *I need your help*. Please send short articles and pictures of chapter activities to me at adk.virginiariding@gmail.com. Topics can include new member initiations, reinstatements, installations of officers, altruistic

activities, field trips . . . anything your chapter is doing that you want to share. Please identify people in the pictures, including names and chapters. Articles, updates, fun quotes, questions, concerns, and stories are also welcome.

Newsletters will also include State, Regional, and International information. So let's get started by getting to know two of the 2024-2026 State Board members.

Spotlight on the State Executive Board

Teresa Heitmiller-Olea, Vice-President of Membership



I was born and raised in Sacramento, California. My mom was originally from Montana and my dad from Los Angeles. Both sets of grandparents moved to Sacramento for work during WWII.

I have one brother. In 1957, my mom worked as an RN at Queens Hospital in Honolulu, HI, and because of the life-long friends she met during that time, Hawaii became very dear to my family.

I went to an all-girls high school and then on to college. After attending Sac State, I began teaching 5th grade at the age of 21 in Elk Grove, CA, where I'd done my student teaching. (I was so naive!) After 10 years of 35+- class sizes, I returned to Sac State (now CSUS) to earn a Master's degree in Special Education and a Resource Specialist Certificate, with the goal of teaching in smaller group settings. With an emergency credential, I was moved to a K-3 SDC room on the same campus.

After a quick 6 month romance and 6 month engagement, I married my husband and we started our family. He's from Salinas, Ca. I taught part-time after our first baby was born, and then when our second was 18 months old, I took a leave of absence.

About 5 years later, I took a job as a Resource Specialist in our neighborhood school where our kids were attending. I taught with Carolsue Acres and Kim Gerould, who invited me to learn about ALPHA DELTA KAPPA. I was

initiated into California's Beta Eta Chapter in 2016 and have held the offices of Recording Secretary, President Elect, and President.

A year later, with two elderly parents and the desire to travel year round, I retired at the age of 58. Our son, now 33, is an auto mechanic, dancer, professional bicyclist, and is presently working for Disney in Shanghai. He and his wife are not sure where they will settle after this contract ends in October. Our daughter, 30, married her husband in 2019. She works for the California Department of Fish and Game as a grant writer. They live "around the corner" from us.

At age 62, I fell in love again when I met our new grandson, Anthony. We now help with his "daycare" and love every minute. My passions are teaching, learning, cooking/homemaking, murder mysteries/ dramas (TV and books), and plant-exclusive nutrition. Oh, and of course, Alpha Delta Kappa!

Virginia (Ginny) Williamson, Treasurer



Virginia (known as Ginny to the board to prevent confusion) Williamson has enjoyed a long and varied career in education. With a BA in English and a Life Standard Teaching Credential, she taught at the elementary level for Newark Unified School District for 36 years, primarily at the sixth grade level. While teaching, she also served on the Bay Area School Reform Collaborative, on the Board of Cal State East Bay Blended Teacher Education Program, and as Education Advisor on the Board of the California DARE Officers Association. In 2003 she was honored to be selected Teacher of the Year for Newark Unified and also for Alameda County.

Virginia has served as master teacher to numerous student teachers. Becoming an Adjunct Professor for California State University, East Bay, she taught courses for master / cooperating teachers working with student teachers. In

1998 she began working with Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment, first as a Site Coordinator, then as Assistant District Coordinator of BTSA for Newark Unified, and finally as Coordinator of Charter and Private Schools for East Bay Induction Consortium, working with teachers at charter and private schools throughout the S.F. Bay Area. She provided ongoing professional development for candidate/support provider teams and trained new support providers as well.

She was hired by AIMS College Prep High School in Oakland in 2020 to serve first as Interim Academic Dean, then as Academic Coach, working with teachers and providing professional development until her retirement in June 2023.

Virginia joined Beta Kappa Chapter of ADK in 2000. She has served as chapter treasurer for eight years, and has just completed the 2022-24 biennium as chapter co-president. Virginia enjoys history and classic movies. She has been married to her husband Don for 35 years, and they both enjoy gardening, Abyssinian cats, and taking road trips.

California State Altruistic Project



Camp Kesem was chosen as the California State Altruistic Project at the 2024 State Convention. It is a program for children ages 6-18 whose parents are in cancer treatment or who have lost their battle with cancer. It is estimated that there are 5 million children nationwide coping with a parent's cancer diagnosis. There are 130 nationwide chapters serving 7,000 children. Twenty-two chapters are in California including many UC campuses and state universities. California Alpha Delta Kappa donations will be allocated to cover costs to allow as many children as possible to attend Camp Kesem. 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.



2024 Dues Information

It's that time again. Chapter treasurers should have already received instructions regarding collecting and paying annual dues from State Treasurer Virginia Williamson, but just as a reminder, state dues are now \$30. Chapter treasurers should collect them and send one check along with a list of chapter members to Virginia Williamson (see address above).

International dues are \$40, and members have the option of paying online or to the Chapter Treasurer.

The deadline for both State and International dues is January 1, 2025. If you have any questions, contact Virginia Williamson at adk.vwilliamson@gmail.com.



Scholarship Winner

California Alpha chapter member Jill Evans recently was awarded a \$500 Regional Mini-Scholarship. Jill, a 21 year veteran Spanish teacher and department head at Mission San Jose High School in Fremont, participated in the Ohio State Summer Seminar Abroad for Spanish Teachers last July.

When contacted, Jill stated, “ Thank you so much for the mini-grant! I learned about the Kuna culture of Panama while I was a graduate student at UCLA and ever since then I have always wanted to go there and learn more about the country. When I found this professional development opportunity I was thrilled to submit an application and even more excited when I was accepted!”

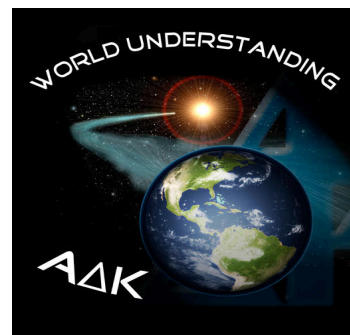
The 16 day program in which Jill participated included room/board with a family, a graduate linguistics course for Spanish teachers, and a chance to learn more about Panama through excursions.



Grants and Scholarships At a Glance

There are many other opportunities to apply for Alpha Delta Kappa grants and scholarships. In order to see what is available, go to the International website (alphadeltakappa.org). To get on the website the first time, your user name is your last name and member number (e.g. RIDING12345). The password the first time is ADK2022! You can change your password and save the information.

Once you have signed in on the International website, click on the Members only tab, then Foundations, then Awards, Grants & Scholarships. The At-A-Glance chart lists the name, due date, who is eligible to apply, and the dollar award all in one place. This site is updated frequently, so visit it often to see what you or members or your chapter can apply for.



World Understanding

The International World Understanding Committee, led by Shirley Bruns, SW World Understanding Chairman, recently issued the following:

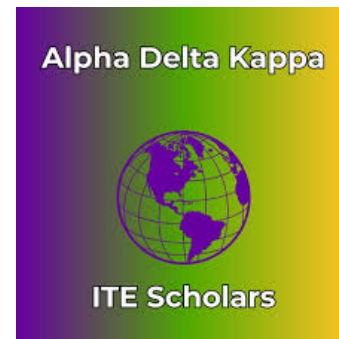
“NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION: Make a submission for the “Making a Better World Initiative”. This is an annual recognition program designed to promote and recognize ADK members for outstanding contributions to

cross-cultural learning and relationships that will increase awareness of and involvement in global and local issues.

Our Southwest chapters support various worthy projects, so we encourage you to apply for recognition of your activities that make a difference in the lives of those in need. Check out the past entries on our international website.

The World Understanding page will also give you complete guidelines for the project and a sample application form for your convenience. The application process goes live on the website (<https://www.alphadeltakappa.org/ADK/ADKMembers/Foundation/WorldUnderstanding/WorldUnderstanding.aspx>) on January 1, 2025, and the deadline for submissions is March 1, 2025.

Please consider applying. We look forward to learning more about your altruistic efforts. If you have questions, please contact me at: Shirley Bruns, SW WU Chairman; email az.adk.sbruns@cox.net.”



ITE Scholar Update

Support Meri Kadagidze, ITE Scholar, during the 2024-2025 Academic Year. Her sponsors are Sue Downing and Kathy Fleming, plus the Washington Beta Iota Chapter in the Redmond/Kirkland area near Seattle and the University of Washington. Meri’s birthday is September 24. Her address: 7602 Sixth Ave. NE, Seattle WA 98115. Her email: meri.kadagidze@gmail.com.

Meri is interested in exploring Seattle and Washington State. She enjoys pets, board games, walking, and stand-up comedy, and she is always eager to get a cup of coffee and engage in an interesting discussion.

Meri is a Fulbright Scholar from the country of Georgia and pursuing a master’s degree in education leadership and policy studies, with an emphasis on education policy development and social transformation advocacy at

University of Washington.

Meri earned a MED in Education Administration. In Georgia and since 2017, she has worked with non-profit and non-governmental groups, primarily as an education specialist/researcher and project coordinator. She aims to assist and inspire teachers while elevating their profession. She has been working on a variety of research projects, including the history of Georgian school education, evaluating academic learning losses during the pandemic, exploring school leadership practices, teacher policies, and Georgian policy planning and assessment systems. She has also participated in advocacy campaigns such as the School Meal Program, the National Teacher Prize, and the promotion of social and emotional learning in schools.

As Meri begins her master's degree in educational policy at the University of Washington School of Education, she would love to hear from you! Spread love and cheer to Meri this year.

Months assigned to California: December, April



Cheers for ADK

Here's a song that the State Board came up with. Have fun singing it to the tune of the theme song from the TV show, Cheers.

Cheers for A□K

Working away in a school today
Takes everything you've got
Finding a place to share your worries
Sure would help a lot
Have you heard of A□K?

A□K is a group for educators just like you
It has scholarships, grants, sometimes plants

To mention just a few
But the best thing really is

(chorus)

You'll finally find a place where everybody knows your name
And they're always glad you came
Sisters to greet, new friends to meet
Sometimes you'll play a game
AΔK- where everybody knows your name
So when your tired and uninspired
And you feel you're all alone
Remember your AΔK sisters and
Call them on the phone
And maybe go for drinks

(chorus)

And find that happy place where everybody knows your name
And you know they feel the same
Share all your woes with a friend who knows
Who won't think you're really lame
AΔK- where everybody knows your name!



Alzheimer's Update

Alzheimer's Association "The Longest Day" Final Report
by Karen Kirby, California Cares Team Captain

California Cares, as part of AΔK's Global Team, had a very successful fundraising effort this year. Here are our final numbers:

California Cares raised a total of \$10,337.00. I had set a goal of \$10,000.00. California Cares ranked as the #5 team out of 98 AΔK teams. California Gamma Mu ranked as the #7 participant out of 348 team participants.

Here is the breakdown of the fundraising efforts of all the California Cares Participants:

Gamma Mu: \$3,758.00

Beta Kappa: \$1,313.00

Diana Galvan (Beta Eta): \$1,051.00

California Cares (participant, not team): \$1,025.00

Gamma: \$770

Beta Omicron: \$730

Alpha Lambda: \$555

Beta Xi: \$440

Zeta: \$370

Karen Kirby: \$330

The Alpha Delta Kappa Global Team (with 98 teams and 348 participants) raised a total of \$310,640.84. The goal was \$250,000.00, so together we far surpassed the goal.

Your fundraising efforts are making a difference. Here are statements from the Alzheimer's Association to you, the donors:

BECAUSE OF YOU, WE ARE IN A NEW ERA OF ALZHEIMER'S TREATMENT. For the first time, we have treatments that can change the course of Alzheimer's. With your support, we are empowering and mobilizing our community to give all people access to early diagnosis, treatment and quality care throughout their journey. Because of you:

We fuel critical progress in dementia science — investing in over 1,000 active best-of-field research projects in 53 countries.

We are in a new era of treatment, with FDA-approved drugs that can change disease progression in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease.

We partner with clinicians to track outcomes of new treatments to improve the future of care.

Current and future treatments will offer many facing Alzheimer's

more time with the people they love. We continue to fight for a future where treatments are accessible for all people facing Alzheimer's and all dementia — at every stage of the disease — in communities everywhere.



Treatment: Lecanemab

This is the first traditionally approved treatment that changes the course of Alzheimer's disease in a meaningful way for people in the early stage of the disease. By slowing the progression of the disease when taken in the early stages of Alzheimer's, individuals will have more time to participate in daily life and live independently.

This means more months of recognizing their spouse, children and grandchildren. This also means more time for people to drive safely, accurately and promptly take care of family finances, and participate fully in hobbies and interests.

By generously sharing your time and resources, YOU have brought us to this pivotal moment. We must keep going.

How did your chapter spend The Longest Day?

The Newark, California Beta Kappa Chapter met at Coyote Hills Regional Park for an informative talk and hike/walk. Other members met up afterwards for lunch. So far our chapter has raised \$1,303 on our donation page from The Longest Day - California Cares website.



Hiking/walking?

CA Beta Omicron walked on Saturday May 18th in San Diego's Mission Bay. It was our 4th year of walking for California Cares.

Our chapter sisters who couldn't make the event, did a fun "active" activity instead. Our chapter loves supporting this event.



From right: Michelle and daughter, Kelly Lobeta, Catherine McAweeney, Patty Nakamura, Holly Foster and her dog, and Cindy Acerno at Mission Bay in San Diego.

More walking, or enjoying yummy pizza?



Gamma Mu held their annual fundraiser at Ballpark Pizza owned by chapter Immediate Past President Diane Poettgen and her husband. Seated at the table are Stephanie Crilly, Lynn Savran, Donna Hyde, Diane Poettgen, Karen Kirby, Ginger Cover and Takahashi.

Milestones



California Beta recently celebrated their 70th Anniversary and their founder Dorothy Vaio's 99th birthday!

The chapter was chartered in San Francisco on August 25, 1953. For more than 70 years, their founder, Dorothy Vaio, has advocated for Alpha Delta Kappa and provided leadership, guidance, support and advice not only to her chapter but to all chapters in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Dorothy's expertise goes back to August 1955 when she attended the First National Convention. At the First California State Convention in October 1956 held in Berkeley, she was elected Vice President and Recording Secretary. She was elected California State President in October 1966.

Due to Dorothy's passion, California Beta (pictured below) is now celebrating its 70th anniversary. They will continue to follow the principles that Dorothy and the founders believed in when they started chartering the chapters—sisterhood, altruism, leadership and excellence in education.



L to R (first row) Madeleine McCormick (Alpha Xi), Dorothy Vaio, Myrna Tsukamoto. (Second row) Mary Ann Englehart (SW Regional President), Helen Soo Hoo, Kathy Gallardo, Diane Golton, Mary Ellen Davis and Susie Scurich



Distinguished Program Recipient

Congratulations to California's Distinguished Program Recognition recipient! **California Beta Eta** was selected as the Southwest Region Distinguished Program Recognition Gold Level recipient. Great job, ladies!

Remember, send articles and pictures for the next issue!

