



The
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™



THE ROSE

Newsletter of Alpha Iota Chapter
Region XI NC DKG
Cherokee-Clay-Macon-Graham
Swain-Jackson-Haywood Counties



What's new in this issue:

- International News
- NC DKG News
- Chapter News
- President's Message
- Celebrations & Concerns
- Dates to Remember

International Scholarship Application
Open July 1 2023

The applicant is required to:

- 1) Be an active member of the Society for a minimum of (3) years if pursuing doctoral studies, or be an active member of the Society for a minimum of one (1) year at the time of application if pursuing other graduate studies such as a master's degree;
- 2) Have completed a Bachelor's degree or equivalent;
- 3) As of the application due date of February 1, be accepted and enrolled in a graduate program of a nationally accredited institution of higher education, preferably pursuing a doctoral degree;
- 4) Provide evidence of active participation and demonstrated leadership in the Society;
- 5) Provide evidence of excellence in scholarship;
- 6) Provide evidence of service to the community; and
- 7) Be a first-time recipient of an international scholarship.

Due February 1, 2024

Members' Voices Matter

By *Dr. Debbie LeBlanc*
2022-2024 International President



Throughout the month of May, four town hall meetings were held to provide the opportunity for members to share their concerns about the costs to attend an international conference and/or convention.

On average, more than 50 women participated in each meeting with members of the Administrative Board to share their concerns as well as ideas for shaping the planning of future international events.

The rising cost of international conferences and conventions is certainly an area of concern. Members voiced opinions about the high cost of meals, and administrators explained the additions to the basic cost: a service charge of about 24% and a sales tax, often 10% or higher depending on the area. Some participants expressed concerns that speakers' fees contribute to the high cost of ticketed meals; however, the opposite is true! Speakers' fees are supported by registration fees, not the price of the meal. Often meal portions are larger than most might eat, and some suggested smaller meals, perhaps even the lunch menu for dinner or a buffet meal that may offer lower costs. It was also suggested that our events be held with the option to purchase food ala carte or with a "no food" option.

Quite a bit of discussion occurred regarding the number of conferences that are held in the odd-numbered years. As you know, DKG originally had five regional conferences, and now there are three international conferences – two in the United States and one in Europe. Most participants in the town hall discussions indicated that one conference should be held in the odd years, with the caveat that Europe would also have a conference. Several suggestions

were shared regarding hybrid events with a fee, such as a pre- or post-convention event with an option for professional growth. Many participants also favored fewer workshops and more business.

Your input and suggestions are always welcome and certainly do not stop with the town hall meetings.

Administrators also included State Organization Leadership Training in this discussion. In the past, leadership training was a part of the international conferences. In 2021, for the first time, leadership training was held as a separate event, primarily to give leaders the opportunity to focus on the training and to spend time with their executive team. The idea of holding the training with a conference received mixed reviews, but women who did attend the 2021 training in Atlanta spoke very positively about it, listing the reasons I previously stated. As you know, the training was held this year, separately from conferences, in Irving, Texas, at the end of June. Right now, there is one conference contracted for 2025, and it will be in New Orleans.

As we look at all the factors that affect the planning of future conferences and conventions, I want to remind you that the Administrative Board listens to our members. However, from a fiscal standpoint, actions of our members in registering or not shape the final decisions regarding the number of conferences, the sites for conferences, and the format and content

Read the rest of this article in the July /August issue of the DKG NEWS

State News



Members, welcome to the 2023-2025 biennium.
My theme is Recruit! Retain! Recognize!
NC DKG Forever Strong!

I chose the triangle because it is the strongest geometric figure which symbolizes the goal for NC DKG to remain forever strong no matter what. During the first year of my biennium, I will concentrate on increasing membership across the state by promoting an increase of 2% or more and provide support to chapters to robustly recruit. I will coordinate with the Communications/Marketing Committee to provide marketing strategies that chapters can use to attract new members including college students and reach out to former members. My second focus will be on supporting chapters in conjunction with the Membership/Expansion Committee. The goal is to assist those chapters that may be facing dissolution to use the Teach to Lead document provided by the U.S. Department of Education to define the cause or causes why they may dissolve and to create SMART goals and implement a plan to prevent dissolution.

Along the way, I will seek updates on the two aforementioned areas for progress and report the results the second year of my biennium at the state convention 2025. Thank you for your trust and confidence in me. With your support, dedication and commitment NC DKG will forever remain strong as we find ways to recognize and celebrate each other as we do the work of NC DKG.

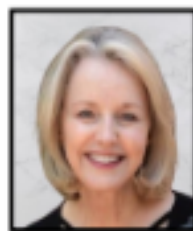
Hilda Parlér
NC DKG
State President
2023-2025



2023-2025 NC DKG OFFICERS ELECTED AND INSTALLED



Hilda A. Parlér
President



Carolyn Lane
First Vice
President



Janie Webb
Second Vice
President



Carol Bostian
Secretary

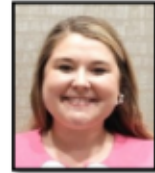
State and Chapter News

NC DKG Announces 2023 Scholarship Recipients

NC DKG Scholarship Committee Chair
Michelle Benigno

NC DKG Scholarship Committee Chair Michelle Benigno proudly introduced the 2023 scholarship recipients during the state convention in Greenville.

Kelton Boorman, a member of Delta Sigma Chapter (Region X, Lincoln), was awarded a 2023 Post-baccalaureate Academic Scholarship valued at \$1,000. Boorman is the K-5 music teacher at Norris Childers Elementary School in Lincoln County. She is pursuing a master's degree in School Administration at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Her goal is to be the "keeper of the flame"—someone who is instrumental in helping students and staff to achieve their academic, personal, and professional goals. Boorman shared, "Educators need administrators now more than ever who keep their "spark" burning vibrantly while helping students discover theirs."



Another 2023 Post-baccalaureate Academic Scholarship, valued at \$1,000, was awarded to Kathleen "Kat" Noland. She is pursuing a master's degree in Library Science from East Carolina University. As a third and fourth-grade teacher at Laurel Park Elementary School, Noland is working to ensure that all of her students enter middle school as strong readers. She states, "My goal is to gain skills that will help me to close the gap between people, technology, and information." She resides in Cary and is a member of Gamma Theta Chapter (Region III, Wake.)

NC DKG is proud of these exceptional members.

We are excited to have these Alpha Iota members now serving at the state level in the new 2023-2025 biennium .

Suzi Cabe- NC DKG Finance Committee

Dedra Davis - NC DKG News Editor & Liaison to International Arts & Humanities Jury

Dr. Tracie Metz -NC DKG US Forum Connection

Congratulations to Alpha Iota for earning the new "Order of the Rose" Award at the 2023 NC DKG Convention. Congratulations also to the Region XI Rising Star recipient, our very own Tracie Metz! She was caught by surprise at her first convention! What a great experience for our amazing President.



Alpha Iota News

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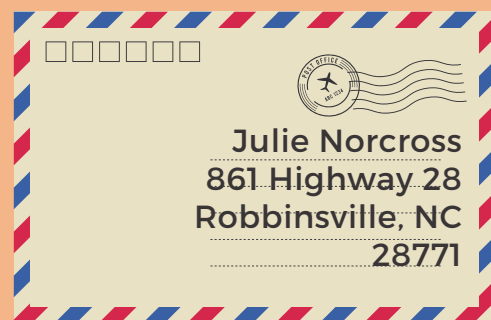
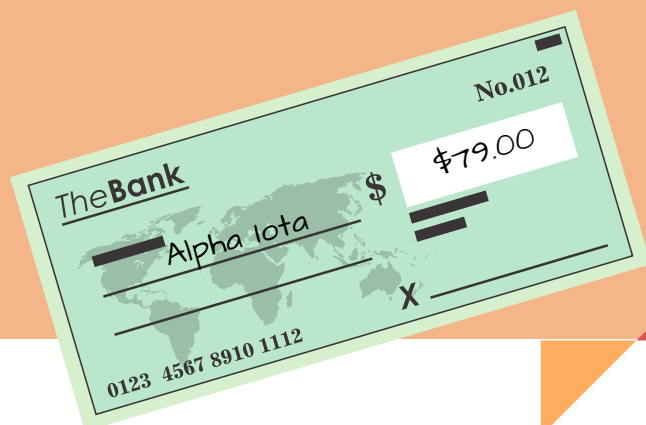
Important Info from Treasurer Julie

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Treasurer Julie began accepting annual dues payments in May. If you were not present at that meeting, please send a check made out to Alpha Iota to Julie as soon as possible.

Dues for active members are \$ 79.

Reserve member dues are \$43.



Meet our newest member! Dr. Jessica Graning. Jessica is the first-born of two educators but came to be an educator indirectly. Her mother is a retired second-grade teacher. Her father is a retired health and physical education teacher. Being an educator was always her dream. Her parents always supported that but didn't want Jessica to feel she had to be a teacher because they were. She attended undergraduate school at UNC-Chapel Hill and got her BA in Exercise and Sports Science. Following this, she attended Duke University where she earned her Doctorate in Physical Therapy (PT) in 2003. She then worked as a pediatric PT from 2003 to 2011 at Mission Hospital. During this period her role included working as both a clinical educator and a clinical instructor. Although she enjoyed being a clinician and providing PT for patients, she loved being an educator even more.

In 2011, Dr. Graning accepted a position as WCU's Director of Clinical Education and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics. This began her on her path as an educator. Aside from her positions at WCU, Dr. Graning is a part-time clinician for Carolina Pediatric Therapy. This allows her to keep her skills and teaching context fresh for her students at WCU. She has learned what it means to be an educator from her many mentors at WCU and the Coulter Faculty Commons. WCU is a teaching institution, and the primary mission is to serve the students' educational experience. Jessica wrote, "I am so very grateful for all that I have learned at WCU. I still have so much to learn, but I am surrounded by excellent human beings who are called to be excellent educators."

In her personal life, Jessica is the mother of three boys (Cade, Abram, and Maddox- all successful and happy in the Jackson County public school system) Dr. Graning lives in Cullowhee with her husband Ben and their sons. When not on campus, she can be found at a baseball field, at the lake, or on a hiking trail. Jessica and her family love living in the mountains of Jackson County, surrounded by authentic people.

May Meeting Virtual Induction and more!



Past President Kathryn Kantz holds laptop with excited new inductee, Dr. Jessica Graning. Dr. April Tallant 1st VP and 2nd VP Alissa Cheek celebrate with her!



Looking great! Love the new chapter shirts!

Meeting photos: Courtesy of Crystal White

Alpha Iota News

More Meeting Moments



Grant-in-Aid Recipients for 2023

Our Scholarship Committee is excited to announce that each of these two outstanding future educators was selected to receive a \$ 1,500 grant-in-aid award from Alpha Iota this fall.



Kensley Phillips - Graham County



Mary Nicholson- Clay County

Kensley, a new graduate from Robbinsville High, is part of the East Carolina Partnership Teach. Partnership Teach is an East Carolina University College of Education degree completion partnership with North Carolina community colleges. Students graduate with a four-year degree in elementary education, special education, or middle grades education from East Carolina University by completing the first two years of the program at any one of partnering community colleges, followed by taking ECU courses online. This degree completion partnership is designed specifically for students that transition from a North Carolina community college. Kensley plans to major in elementary education.

"I plan to attend Western Carolina University and major in elementary education and pursue a master's degree with a goal of supporting students with educational challenges. During my senior year I am teaching a weekly Wednesday evening Bible class to preschoolers at my church. Through this experience I have discovered how much fun it is to make a difference in the lives of children. Over the past eight months I have also realized that teaching has many challenges yet yields great rewards. While I have learned more than I have taught the children, I understand I have many more skills to acquire to become a master teacher. I have the desire to help young people and I am eager to prepare myself for the journey to continue my family's tradition of learning to make a difference in the lives of children."

Alpha Iota News

The Executive board met on Thursday, June 29 to plan for the upcoming year. I am sure amazing things are in store for our members. One thing that was planned is the meetings dates & locations.

Please note some changes from previous years and mark your calendars now!

September 9, 2023 - Clay County; Focus: Chapter Growth* & Community Impact

November 4, 2023 - Macon County; Focus: Women's History Trail & Community Impact*

December 2, 2023 - Cherokee County; Focus: December Auction

March 2, 2024 - Graham County; Focus: Mara Academy & Community Impact*

May 4, 2024 - Jackson Co.; Focus: Induction of New Members; DKG Celebration & Community Impact*



Summer Executive Board meeting



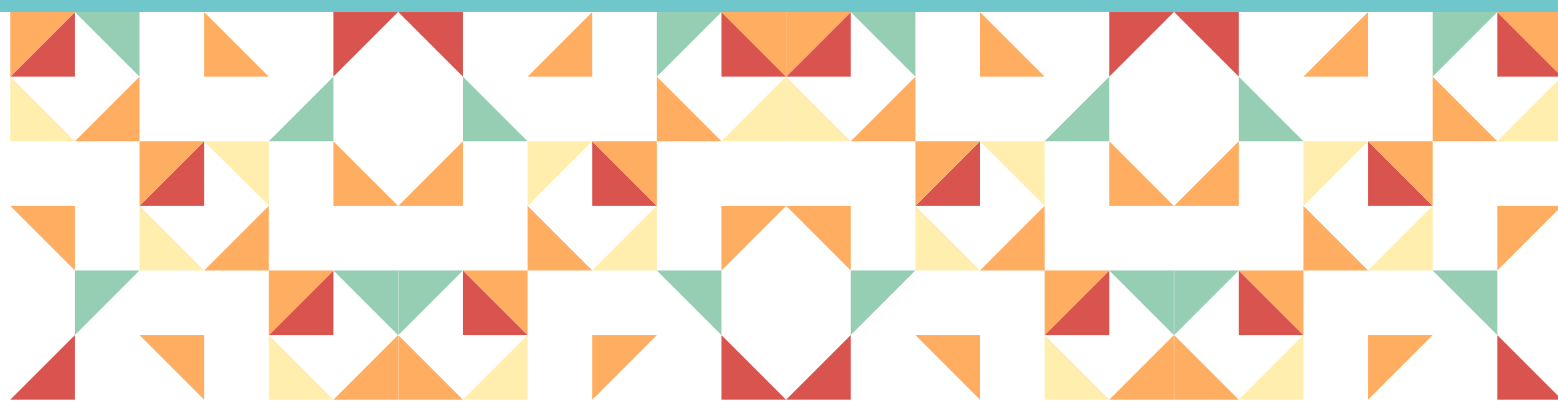
Front: 1st VP April, President Tracie,
Back: Treasurer Julie, Parliamentarian Suzi



Suzi and Past President Kathryn



President Tracie & Dedra
Connect at a County Commissioners meeting



President's Message



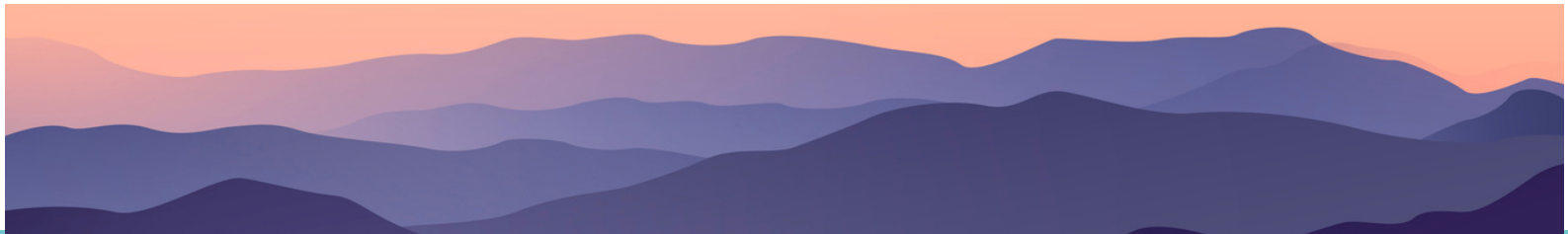
Dr. Tracie Metz
President
2022-2024

This past year, we have spent time encouraging one another in our purpose and calling, especially noting the role that time plays in both action and rest. This summer, as I reflected upon the past year, I was drawn to the word micro. A five letter word that means extremely small. Yet, in combination with other words, something extremely small can become something quite impactful. I am sure we can each think of a way this word micro is combined with another word in our day to day activities - microwave (shortened heating time), microprocessor (thank goodness for my cell phone), or microscope (that's my science background coming out). What about micro moments? A micro moment is defined as a very short amount of time, usually one that is seen as being important in some way. Each of us gives in ways that have a long lasting impact on those in our families and communities, such as, a quick text becomes someone's biggest hug, or a small donation completes a full meal for another family. As we enjoy the summer season, please take a moment to celebrate the micro moments you've experienced throughout the year. Your actions lead to a big impact! "Little drops of water make the mighty ocean." Julia Carny

Thank you for ALL that you do!
~t

[Presidents pin photo credit](#)
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Celebrations and Concerns



- Bobbie Carpenter's husband Tom has passed away. His visitation and service will be Saturday afternoon July 8, at 3:15 with funeral at 4:00 pm at Sweetwater Baptist Church, Robbinsville.
- Congratulations to Alissa Cheek in her new role as Director of Institutional Research at Young Harris College!
- Pray for our friend Sheri Black who has had medical setbacks since relocating to Texas.
- Best wishes to Dr. Lisa Fletcher who was just sworn in as the new Superintendent of Transylvania County Schools.
- Congratulations to Barbara El-Khoury for her recent William Wollard Partner-in-Service award in recognition for service with the Andrews Lion's Club which also earned a Club of the Month. Award of Excellence under her leadership.
- Please pray for a safe and wonderful trip as I travel to Phoenix for the International conference this month.
- Let's help Lana celebrate her daughter Joslyn in being selected as the new principal at Andrews Middle School!

Please submit information for the newsletter to editor: Dedra Davis



1ST VP
DR. APRIL TALLANT

2ND VP
ALISSA CHEEK

RECORDING SECRETARY
TERRY GRIBBLE

TREASURER
JULIE NORCROSS

PARLIAMENTARIAN
SUZI CABE

EDITOR/WEBMASTER
DEDRA DAVIS

Mark your Calendars!



LINKS

International Website:
www.dkg.org

[NC DKG Website](#)

Alpha Iota Website
<https://alphaiotanc.weebly.com>

ALPHA IOTA

[Follow us on Facebook](#)

Alpha Iota Chapter Meetings

- Saturday, September 9, 2023 @ 10 AM; Clay County
- Saturday, November 4, 2023 @ 10 AM; Macon County
- Saturday, December 2, 2023 @ 10 AM; Cherokee County
- Saturday, March 2, 2024 @ 10 AM; Graham County
- Saturday, May 4, 2024 @ 10 AM; Jackson County

Upcoming DKG Events

July 11-16, 2023	DKG International Conference, Detroit, Michigan
July 18-22, 2023	DKG International Conference, Phoenix, Arizona
July 26-29, 2023	DKG International Conference, Tampere, Finland
2024	DKG International Convention National Harbor, Maryland (Gaylord National, D.C. Area)

Please submit information for the newsletter to editor: [Dedra Davis](#)
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