

The Front Porch Swing

April 16, 2020



Dear Sisters,

I cannot tell you how many times I have started and restarted this newsletter. Each day would bring new information and more delays. Wow! Who would have ever thought that we would be sitting in our homes quarantined? I have hoped and prayed that each one of you and all that is near and dear to you are safe and in good health. Hopefully, everyone in need will be accomodated and the end to this nightmare will be over soon.

Anyone with school age children or grandchildren are now filling the shoes of teachers everywhere. Prayers for patience and understanding for everyone. Special hugs to those teachers still working trying to provide for their students and their own children as well. People are finding out that maybe the problem in the classroom was not the teacher! If you are on social media, you know what I am talking about.

What a way to end the biennium! It is not over yet and we have some challenges to overcome and business to complete. The executive board is mastering ZOOM in order for us to meet and make decisions. I know you have questions for me and I know I still do not have all the answers for you.

State Convention Status:

Question? Will I receive a refund?

- We were required to pay for all the food, room rentals, and services supplied by the hotel up front days before we would meet as stipulated in our contract.
- We are responsible to reimburse individuals, chapters and businesses for expenses leading up to the conference first. I have asked all parties to turn in their receipts to our convention chairman, Julia Soniat immediately.
- We are still waiting on some chapters to send in their \$25.00 to reimburse Chi Chapter for the door prizes. These door prizes will be awarded at our next large state gathering.
- We do have goodie bags, programs, and convention gifts to be distributed to the registered delegates.
- Until I have more information, any refunds to chapters/individuals are currently on hold. International has given us suggestions to propose. At this time it is still a wait and see as we watch what governmental officials decide.

Question? Will the convention take place on July 24 - 25, 2020 in Kenner as previously announced? “I do not know?”

- I booked July 24th and 25th immediately for the convention so as to be first in line for rescheduling and prior to school starting again.



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- As the virus continued to spread and the “Stay at Home” mandates were put into place, the question of a convention is now up in the air? I have not signed the new contract and the dates are still on the calendar.
 - I have made many attempts to contact the hotel since I received the new contract. Every attempt has not been successful and I had hoped to have had brighter news at this time.
 - Continue to save those dates! President-Elect Karen Evans is looking at those dates to have officer training as a substitute.
 - The executive board met last week and we are looking at a couple alternative meetings. One possibility is a one day state gathering for Founders Day in October. This would not be necessarily in Kenner.
 - I had hoped to have had better news by today. However, until that can be resolved, we do have some other matters of business to complete. I know you have been keeping up with your International AΔK newsletter which is emailed to every sister three times a month.



Biennium Business/ Chapter Virtual Meetings:

- Please initiate your new sisters as soon as possible and hold a **virtual initiation** if you have not done so already. Don't forget to complete the appropriate form and submit it to International.
- As soon as your chapter officers have been elected, have a **virtual initiation**. Please submit form H- 107 Report of Chapter Officers online. When you receive your email confirmation, forward a copy to me. Deadline prior to June 30, 2020
- You can have a formal celebratory gathering in the fall as soon as everyone can meet face to face again.



- **State Convention /Voting:**

- The International Bylaws (Article VII, Section 2.d) require that all State Executive Boards must be elected prior to June 30.
- The Louisiana State Executive Board passed a policy prior to the state convention that if there is only one candidate for an office that has met the qualifications, the president may declare an election by acclamation. The candidates for any office that are uncontested will be declared elected.



- The Candidate Qualification Chair Proxy - **Debbie Boudoin**, State Historian has certified that the following candidates meet the qualifications necessary in order to hold their respective office by the approved deadline of the state convention. Each candidate's biography has been posted on the state website prior to the dates for our cancelled state convention.
 - **Our slate of officers is complete and uncontested:**
 - President: Karen Evans
 - President-Elect: Leslie Koenck
 - Vice President for Membership: Brendy Guillory
 - Treasurer: Jane Crews
 - Secretary: Betty Stockholm
 - Chaplain/Sergeant at Arms: Angie McEachern
 - Historian: Leona Benoit
 - Immediate Past State President: Barbara Stainback

- The Louisiana State Bylaws will not require a vote. All changes made mirrored the International Bylaws that removed “the sorority” as a description of our organization. No other changes were made.
- The 2020 - 2022 state budget proposals have been posted on the state website for your review for several weeks. As a result of this unique situation. Voting will be different this year. The voting will be done electronically using a Google Form. All sisters that were registered as a delegate or by leadership position by the March 13-15, 2020 convention will be the members that will vote.
- Convention registrants should review the proposed budget that shows an increase of \$5.00 in state dues that is posted on the state website at www.laalphadeltakappa.org . The rationale for the increase is in the March 2020 “ The Front Porch Swing” Newsletter.
- **Friday, April 17, 2020.** Delegates will receive an email. It will be a Google Form that will allow delegates to submit questions concerning the proposed budget.
- **Friday, April 24, 2020** at noon is the deadline to submit questions.
- **Monday, April 27, 2020** at 4:00 p.m. Delegates who submit questions will be invited to a ZOOM meeting to address their questions.
- Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. Google Form ballots will be emailed and voting will end at 9:00 p.m.
- New Officers and budget election results will be announced in the May newsletter.





- **2018 - 2020 State Convention Altruistic Project**

- “The Haven” is still a commitment that we are going to follow through on.
- Keep saving your donations - green bags included.
- The 2018 -2020 officers still have items to auction off.
- This support will happen at the next large state meeting.



A Message from our President - Elect



Karen Evans Chapter Secretaries - please make sure you have emailed me copies of all your minutes.

Sisters - I am still in need of a Technology Chairman. The key responsibility of this position is to keep our state website updated. Please contact me if you are interested in the position.



Karen

A Message from our Vice President for Membership



Leslie Koenck - Membership Corner

We are drawing near the end of our membership campaign which ends on April 30th. All forms must be sent to headquarters before the end date for a pearl and qualify for our state drawing. I know that most chapters will not be able to have a face to face meeting but a chapter may send in the initiation forms with the fees to international and then have the ceremony in the fall. Doing this would allow your chapter to have credit for the pearl.

In an effort to make the Alpha Delta Kappa membership application process easier, the H-103, Membership Application Form and H-133, Report of Initiation Form are now combined. **Before the new member is initiated, the applicant needs to complete and submit the H-103 along with a \$25 application fee to the chapter membership chairman.** After the initiation of the new member, the chapter membership chairman is to complete the H-103, Membership Application Form. If you have previously submitted the old version of the H-103, Membership Application Form, it will be necessary for you to submit the separate H-133, Report of Initiation Form in order to complete the new member process, which is listed



Leslie Koenck continued.....

below. New members must acquire a badge, but are not required to purchase it from International Headquarters.

The updated **Membership Development Manual** (MDM) has been posted on the International website. It has all the answers to your membership questions. Please take time to review it.



I know that these past few weeks have been challenging but it is nice to have sisters that you can depend on. Please call your sisters that might need extra support and love during this time. If I can be of any assistance to you, please email (lkoenckadk@gmail.com) or call me (337 208-7456).



Help is needed.....

I need your help sisters. I am beginning the ground work to establish a Louisiana Alpha Delta Kappa Collegiate Club (AΔKCC). The purpose of the club is to support future educators while promoting excellence, professionalism, altruism and world understanding. I believe that these ladies could be future members of our organization. I am looking for sisters that are employed by a university in our state. Please send an email (lkoenckadk@gmail.com) or call (337 208-7456) me with the name (s) of your chapter members employed by a university. Thank you for your support in this endeavor

With sisterly love,

Leslie



VP for Membership
LA Alpha Sigma



A Message from our State Treasurer



Jane Crews Thanks to all the treasurers who sent in chapter dues on time. A special thanks to treasurers who have been keeping up with late payers and reinstated sisters' dues payments.

***Reminder** that your chapter's fiscal year should end May 31, 2020. Then the C-1 should be filed. This time off from school might be a chance for treasurers to visit

your books and get the report in order.

***Reminder** that district treasurers should file a D-1 report with me. Treasurers can copy their reports to me at jane Crews@prodigy.net. I appreciate all the hard work treasurers have done.



Jane

A Message from our Historian



Debbie Boudoin

A note from your 2018-2020 State Historian, Debbie Boudoin:

As State Historian I was in charge of compiling our state archives for this biennium. I would like to sincerely thank all of you who helped me do this by sending in your chapter's story.

During this pandemic remember the tried and true mantras:

In words of humorist Erma Bombeck: "Worry is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do but never gets you anywhere." And Marie Curie: "Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so we may fear less." Stay Safe and Healthy!



Debbie

Closing Thoughts: 2018 - 2020 State President



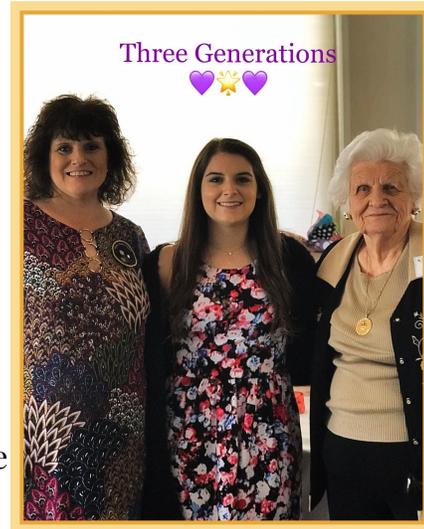
Barbara Stainback

Positive thoughts and prayers and we encounter a new normal and the uncertainty of what that is going to look like. New learning curves using technology that changes over night. The last large gathering of AAK sisters to my knowledge was in





Shreveport on February 29, 2020 at the District VI Initiation Luncheon. So happy that I was able to attend.



What a joy it was to participate in the initiation of these new sisters. It was so very special to observe the emotion on President-Elect, Karen Evans' face as her mother and fellow sorority sister,

Frances West pinned a badge on her daughter and new member of the Louisiana Tau. Also in attendance was Karen's sister and Tau member, Susanne Brooks. It was a special family affair.

zoom

President- Elect Karen Evans and myself were invited guests of Alpha Kappa last week for their April 9, 2020 chapter meeting. You cannot see all of the sisters because they had so many sisters in attendance that were on a second screen. That is also not counting the sisters that were piggy backing with someone on the phone. It was purely delightful and most informative. I encourage every chapter to check out ZOOM, Skype or any other virtual platform to engage your sisters and complete business. Angie McEachern, Alpha Kappa Chapter urged her sisters to do two things!



1. Put a picture on our chapter facebook page and show us what you have been doing with your time.
2. Pull out our directory and look at the name listed above yours and below yours. Reach out to them with a call or a card. Keep connected.

What a wonderful idea! Violets to you Angie!





I was also introduced to a program that the Alpha Kappa Sisters were using to sign up for hostess positions for 2020-2022. [SignUpGenius.com](https://www.signupgenius.com) It is the leading online sign up service for event and volunteer management. It is a great resource for school, church, nonprofit, business and sport leaders! Check it out!



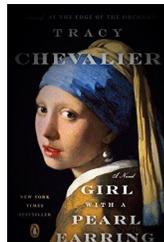
The View from the Front Porch Swing!



As we sit at home during our new normal, many families are spending time together outdoors and the porch is a favorite gathering place morning and evening.

As Jackie Kennedy said “ Pearls are always appropriate.” So when you venture out to your porch to sip tea, read a book or watch the fireflies at night - “Don’t forget to wear your pearls.”

Barbara



Judy Ganzert
International President
2019 - 2021



Barbara Stainback
State President
2018 - 2020



Terry Peyton
Gulf 1VP
2019 - 2019

