

Kappa Kapers

**The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Kappa Chapter, Virginia State Organization
Blue Ridge Coordinating Council**

President's Message

**October 2020
Volume XXV, Issue 2**

The weather has finally cooled off and it looks like Fall is on the way. It's been a long and trying Spring and Summer so let's hope the next several months will be a step closer to getting us back to normal! Those of you in the classroom have gotten experience in this new way of educating our students and, hopefully, are getting into the rhythm of this new challenge of teaching.

Thanks to all of those who joined us for our first ever ZOOM meeting in September. I have purchased *ZOOM for Dummies* so I'm reading up! We also have access to a paid Zoom account so we can record meetings and have them available for later viewing. October's meeting will be available on Zoom at **6:30** so we can use the time before our meeting to check in with each other and work on any problems connecting that we might be having. **Our program will start promptly at 7:00 pm.** The program is something that we all can benefit from--**Self Care--How to Manage Stress and Protect Your Immune System.** Kathleen Dubonsky will be our presenter. I encourage you to invite friends, family and potential new members to participate in this Zoom. We'll be having our business meeting after the program so those "visitors" can just leave the Zoom screen. Members without access to a computer or smartphone will be able to join us with a "call up" number. Links and numbers are provided on page 2 under upcoming meeting information.

Laurie Neistrath has our Kappa Facebook page (private and public) up and running. Feel free to invite friends and colleagues to like our page. This is just another way of keeping connected to each other.

We have collected enough items to fill 12 Journey Bags for foster children in our area. Thanks to those who bought items and/or made monetary donations. This project is a great outreach to our community.

The Virginia State Organization's Fall Executive Board was held on Friday and Saturday, Sept 23-24. I hope that those of you who joined us found interesting workshops and got some new ideas. It was wonderful to be connected to other DKG members throughout the State.

Those of you who are teaching, keep those mini-grant applications coming. Kappa is so glad that we can help you with classroom needs. Remember to let us know if there are other ways that we can be helping you.

I look forward to seeing your smiling faces on Tuesday, October 20. Remember that our meeting will begin at 7:00 pm but we hope that you will join us earlier so we can have some social time together

Margaret

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Upcoming Meeting



Business Meeting and Program

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2020

6:30 PM - social time

7:00 – program starts

[Click here](#) to join the meeting by Zoom on computer.

OR One tap mobile

+13126266799,,86128731182#,,,,,0#,,028678#

OR just call +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 861 2873 1182

Passcode: 028678

An additional email will be sent closer to date.



Program: Self Care - How to manage stress and protect your immune systems; informal chat conducted by Kathleen Dubovsky

Save the Dates for 2020-21 meetings (tentative)....

Nov 17 - Zoom 7:00 - Program: Gail Goolsby, author of the 2020 DKG Educators Award, Unveiled Truth. (see additional information in newsletter)

December 5 - Breakfast with Santa sponsored by the MaDee Project; Stonewall Jackson Hotel (8:00 am and 10:30 am); This will be a COVID friendly event. Kappa will provide the prepackaged craft. More information forthcoming.

Jan 30 - This meeting may be in person (10:00 am-brunch). If that is not possible due to the pandemic, it will be held virtually. Program will be provided by Virginia State Organization President, Mary Mehaffey.

Mar 16 - person or virtual, details forthcoming-

May 4 - In person or virtual, details forthcoming

Happy Birthday

October

- 11 Sarah Nicklas
Margaret Shifflett
- 23 Pamela Landes
- 28 Erika Kancler, Kristin Quinn



Spotlight on newer member...Laurie Nistrath



Hello, all- My name is Laurie Nistrath. I graduated from Eastern University with a BA in Elementary Education and an MEd in Adult Learning from Virginia Commonwealth University. I began my love of children and learners as a babysitter when I was 12 years old. Several years of being a mother's helper during college solidified my desire to teach and work with young learners. My certification is NK-Middle Grades. I've taught children in grades 2 through 8th grade. My middle school experience encompassed Mathematics, Language Arts and World Geography. I've taught urban, suburban and rural children. My favorite grade spans the last semester of 5th grade and the first of 6th grade. I feel fortunate to have experienced teaching before the advent of standardized testing.

My greatest joy was serving as the Lead Math Educator with an emphasis on transitioning concrete learners for abstract concepts. I've taught in a private school in South Philadelphia, in public schools in Roanoke City, Albemarle County and Greene County. Over the last two years I've worked with adults in both the GED and the Plugged-in Virginia, Skilled Trades program as an Adult Educator, through Piedmont Virginia Community College.

Over the course of my tenure, I recognized how left out and overlooked adults were in many aspects of learning. What works for children doesn't necessarily work well for adult learners. I left the traditional classroom in 2011 to better understand the difference and to learn how better to translate what I learned as an undergraduate to that of graduate school. I pursued a course of study in Adult Learning in the Human Resource Development track.

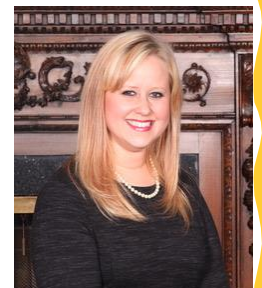
As part of this "gap" period, I indulged in several pre-retirement experiences. I trained to be a docent at The Fralin Museum of Art, UVA, become a Master Gardener and volunteered through the Piedmont MG Association and volunteered at The University of Virginia Hospital Auxiliary. As an auxilian, my last office was that of president. Active participation in the nonprofit world has been an integral part of my life. Through the Center for Nonprofit Excellence in Charlottesville, my understanding of board leadership deepened through participation in the Board Academy program. I have many educational interests. My greatest passions lie in coaching and consulting with a desire to help learners achieve educational goals.

I moved to Central Virginia from Roanoke in 1996 to join my husband who works for Northrop Grumman. My son is a Duke at James Madison University, majoring in Public Policy and Administration as well as Geographic Information Systems. We are enjoying a semi-empty nest with a yellow lab and two SPCA cats. When not trying to teach someone something, which my family contends is *not* always a welcome event, I love to read, cook, travel and knit. Quilting and genealogy are two new projects, the residual benefit of COVID-19.

I look forward to participation in DKG and Kappa Chapter events!

Congratulations....Emily Petkus

Emily Petkus successfully defended her dissertation and completed her doctoral program in Counselor Education and Supervision from Governors State University in Illinois. Emily's dissertation was a qualitative content analysis of syllabi from CACREP-accredited clinical mental health counseling programs across the United States requiring a course in sexuality. She is working on turning this dissertation project into an article for publication. Emily is now a Core Faculty member in the clinical mental health counseling program at The Family Institute at Northwestern University.





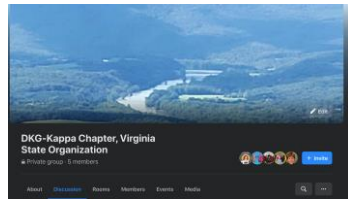
DKG magnetic name tag and ribbon pin holders:

VA Chapter Gamma Pi in VA Beach is selling these. Proceeds are used for scholarships to support students planning to become educators. They are less expensive if we order together (5 or more \$22 each) or \$25 if they are sent to separate addresses. Members can email Margaret Shifflett if they would like to order and she will place a bulk order. She will pay for them and members can pay her back when they arrive. Or she can send you the link if you are interested in ordering yourself.

Facebook



Chapter Public Facebook Page—We are now live with a chapter FB page. Join others in sharing Kappa with those in your Facebook Feed. When you like us, information about the group will automatically post to your page. The information on this site is for the public and is a way in which to showcase the work of the chapter as well as to welcome possible new members.



Chapter Group Facebook Page—Please join others from this chapter in a private group chat. You can do so by sending a request to join through Laurie Nistrath on FB or by sending an email to her.

laurieniestrath@gmail.com

DO YOU KNOW?

If you have an idea that you would like to suggest to our Chapter, all you need to do is present the idea as a motion during our business meeting. We can then find out information about the idea, discuss and vote. EASY to do. I would appreciate it if you would give me a "heads up" so I know that it will be brought up but I encourage you to use it as an opportunity for our chapter!

In appreciation....

I want to express my appreciation for your kind words, emails and cards. The untimely death of my sister was so unexpected. I am comforted by your kindness. — Laurie Nistrath

I want to thank Susan Schuckman for her notes of encouragement to those of us teaching in the Covid world. I also want to thank Kathy Glass (also my neighbor) for providing me with fashionable masks and lots of school supplies. — Scarlett Kiser

In recognition....

President Margaret Shifflett gave "Stepping up" awards to Wendy Hull and Laurie Nistrath for volunteering to set up a facebook page and Susan Schuckman and Kathy Glass for organizing support for teachers going back to work under Covid19.

Anne Perdue on behalf of Blue Ridge Coordinating Council awarded Susan Schuckman the "Honor Our Own" award.

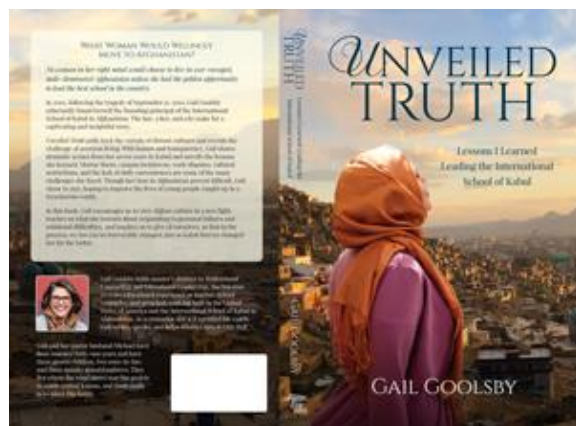
Educator's Book Award

Gail Goolsby, the 2020 DKG Educator's Book Award recipient, will be Kappa's program on November 17, 2020. This will be a virtual presentation. Her book, *Unveiled Truth*, is based on a unique collection of experiences and memories when she lived in Afghanistan.

If you would like to purchase an **autographed** copy of *Unveiled Truth*, the cost is \$12 plus \$3 shipping on her website.

The link to the order information is:

<https://www.gailgoolsby.com/buy-book/>

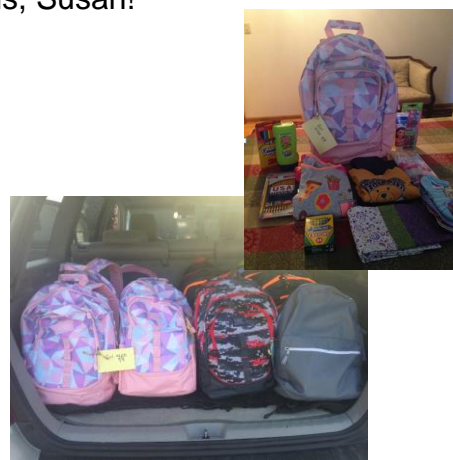


And the Winner is...

Susan Doughty was the lucky bidder on the Lisa Geiman print that hung at Virginia State Organization's Headquarters. The money was donated to the Downs-Ryerson Grant-in-Aid fund. Congratulations, Susan!

Journey Bags

Once again, Kappa Chapter members have generously donated to the Journey Bag project. Between the donations of items and monetary donations (\$180), we were able to donate **12 Journey Bags** to Shenandoah Valley Social Services. Since 2017, Kappa has provided a total of 48 Journey Bags. Thanks to everyone who participated.



BE SURE TO VOTE – Reminders from Bea

- Early voting in Virginia started Friday, September 18. You may vote early any weekday and the last two Saturdays before November 3. Check with the registrar's office about where to vote early in person in your locality.
- There will likely not be long lines when you vote early in person, especially in the next several weeks. Curbside voting is also available.
- The deadline for applying for a mail-in ballot is October 23. Be sure to read and follow the instructions carefully.
- Mail the ballot promptly, deposit in a drop-box provided by your registrar's office. Ballots are safe there. They are removed twice a day.
- If you get the mail-in ballot but decide to vote in person, take the mail-in ballot with you and turn it in.
- **DO NOT MAIL IN THE MARKED BALLOT AND THEN GO TO VOTE IN PERSON!!**
- Remember the importance of Constitutional Amendment 1 to allow a a commission to draw voting district lines which will allow a more transparent and fair method and avoid gerrymandering.



KAPPA CHAPTER

The Kappa Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma is offering mini grants not to exceed \$50.00 for current members who are still teaching. You can apply for consumables, books, wipes, sanitizers, markers, crayons, zip lock bags, etc. It is whatever you need for your classroom to be successful during this coming, 2020-2021, school year. Kappa Chapter realizes each of you are facing new challenges in teaching this year and these grants will help you get the supplies you need. Kappa Chapter is excited to help current educators.

Please fill out the short application below and email it to Susan Schuckman at slschuckman@aol.com. Questions, let me know!

APPLICATION

Name: _____

School: _____

Description of what you need: _____

Approximate Cost: _____

Kappa Chapter Stipends

Greetings! The chapter has had two requests for supplies! The supplies requests were for ear buds, paintbrushes, magnify glasses, play dough, etc. Remember, all you have to do is fill out the application, which will take you two minutes top! Send it to me at slschuckman@aol.com and I will work with Sandy Proctor, Treasurer to get you a check! You don't need to turn in receipts, etc. Email your application soon! Kappa Chapter is here to help you!

Susan Schuckman,
Chair Education Excellence Committee

In Memory...Sylvia Moore

Sylvia Moore passed away peacefully Wednesday, Sept. 29, in the presence of her daughter, Mimi, and son, Chris. She was 94 years old. She was inducted into DKG in 1974. While in Beta Xi, she was very active, holding many positions over the years including president of the chapter. She was also involved at the state level. She traveled overseas in a teacher exchange. She retired as an elementary supervisor in Rockingham County. When Beta Xi dissolved she transferred as a reserve member to Kappa Chapter. There will be a memorial service sometime next year when a decline in COVID cases allow safer travel. If you wish to send condolences....

Dr. Mimi Moore
84 Branch Brook Rd.
Thomaston, ME 04861



VA State DKG website

- your portal to reaching the international site. Beginning October 10, a new security log-in will be necessary for you to access the site. Here are the instructions for registration

1. Go to www.va-state.org. Look in the upper right-hand corner where it says **member sign-in**.
2. **Click on member sign-in** where you will see a drop down menu so you will see **Register**.
3. **Register with your personal, unique username and password – ones that you will remember**
4. Do **not use the old username and password** that you have used for years to access the directory and chapter newsletters.
5. If it will not let you register and says your email address is already being used, **Do Not Register by choosing another email address. You are registered already in the system because you have used the online store.**

November 2020 Belk Charity Days

Belk Charity Days are back, although the event will be a bit different. Participation in Belk Charity Days has been the the primary method of funding Kappa Chapter's Grant-in-Aid fund. In October, we sold 37 tickets for a total of \$185.

- Tickets are redeemable on **November 13-15** only.
- There will be no presales prior to the event, although in October people were able to prebuy using their Belk credit card.
- No sitting at a table on the days of the sale.
- Tickets cost \$5, however, you will receive **\$10** off your purchase!!
- Tickets can be used at any Belk store or at Belk.com.
- The ticket says No Brand Exclusions, however, there may be exceptions on exclusive brands on Belk.com.
- Members are welcome to sell tickets to friends and family.

If you would like some tickets for the November event, please let me know how many and I will mail them to you. You can send the money (checks made payable to Kappa Chapter) to: Anne Perdue, PO Box 34, Mint Spring, VA 24463.



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International website:

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VA State Organization is on Twitter #DKGVA

Chapter website address

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VA State Organization website:

www.va-state.org

Facebook: search "Virginia State Organization, Delta Kappa Gamma Society International"