

Kappa Kapers

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

President's Message

**May 2022
Volume XXVI, Issue 6**

Well, you've almost made it through another school year. The last two years have been a challenge and classroom teachers, you have survived!! As we all look forward to warmer weather and fun-filled hours spent with family and friends, we all need to be looking ahead to Kappa's future, too. I hope that as a chapter we can continue to support each other and stay connected. The last biennium has been a challenge to our chapter and DKG chapters throughout the world. I appreciate everyone's willingness to be flexible—from cancelling a meeting because of illness, our "meeting place" closing at the last minute, still learning to deal with ZOOM, working around schedules. We all can continue to grow as Kappa members in assuming new leadership roles and trying new things. Not meeting in person has left some of us without the personal connections that we were hoping to have as a chapter. Our in-person May meeting (we'll try to Zoom, too) will be held at BRCC in the Science Building—S-109. (The Science Building is next to Houff Student Center where we met last month.) If you aren't sure how to get to Blue Ridge CC, send me an email and I will send you a map. I will also include a map and Zoom link in the reminder email several days before our meeting on May 10. We will be having dinner and awarding our Downs-Ryerson Grants-in-Aid, installing officers for 2022-2024 and celebrating Kappa's 75 years. Invite a former member or possible new member to attend with you.

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Margaret

**RELAY FOR LIFE
TEAM KAPPA
SATURDAY, APRIL 30**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Belk April Charity Days. We sold a total of 37 tickets which resulted in \$185 for Kappa Chapter's Grant-in-Aid. Hope everyone found lots of bargains!

-Anne Perdue

Upcoming Meeting

Business Meeting and Program

Tuesday, May 10, 2022

6:00 pm

IN PERSON

Blue Ridge Community College

Weyers Cave, VA 24486

Science Building—S-109. (The Science Building is next to Houff Student Center where we met last month.)



We continue our celebration of Kappa's 75th anniversary!

Recognition of GIA

Officer installation



Happy Birthday

May

6 Anne Perdue

10 Karen OBrien

12 Dee Hoy



Care and Conern

Cheryl Perry

Vrla Leach

Judy Baylor

A Personal Note from Lynne Carson

I hope to see many of you at our May meeting but want to share with those who cannot attend a word or two. I have always been proud to be a part of Kappa Chapter for its leadership, service and fellowship. It was my honor to serve as president and in other capacities. I will miss you all a great deal as I will be moving out of the area around Memorial Day. My husband's stroke, prostate problems and myeloma have made the past months difficult. We will be moving to Chicago to be close to my daughter and her family. I will leave with a heavy heart but with many memories of our times together.

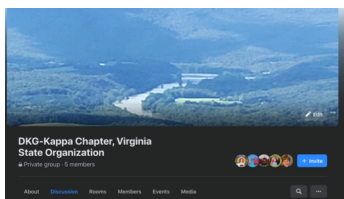
DID YOU KNOW We are starting again to raise money for our Grant-in-Aid. Now you will be able to contribute money to our GIA in honor or in memory of someone and that will be recognized in the newsletters.



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 Niestrath on FB or by sending an email to her. laurieniestrath@gmail.com

From the Education Excellence Committee...

I just want to remind everyone funds from Kappa Chapter are available for stipends. The application is simple to fill out. You can get \$50 by filling out the application and emailing it to me at slschuckman@aol.com. No receipts are necessary. Application is enclosed in the newsletter.

Susan Schuckman

Save Your Dimes:

The Educational Excellence has two water bottles that will be passed around at each meeting. When the water bottle is full, it will be \$100.00. One bottle is for the Downs-Ryerson Grant-in-Aid Scholarship and the other bottle is for the MaDee Project. Any questions, let Susan Schuckman know! Thanks for collecting those dimes!

Time For Dues...

It's that time again. Dues continue to be \$90 for Active membership and \$35 for Reserve membership. They are due to me by June 15. You can give it to me at our May 10th meeting in person or send it to me at 206 Hudson Ave, Staunton, VA 24401. Thanks in advance for getting it to me on time!

Sandy Proctor, Treasurer

Congratulations to these ladies for reaching DKG membership milestones:

- Susan Doughty – 30 years
- Vrla Leach – 30 years
- Julia Van de Water – 25 years

Downs-Ryerson Grant-in-Aid

What is the Downs-Ryerson Grant-in-Aid? Kappa Chapter awards the grant(s)-in-aid to a senior or seniors from a school in our membership area who is planning to study education in college. This year, the committee had some wonderful applications to review and chose three young ladies to receive \$1000 each. Two of the recipients attend Wilson High School, Tess Quick and Reagan Frazier and the third, Hannah E. Whitehair, attends Broadway High School in Rockingham County. The Grant-in-Aid is named for two former Kappa members, Leona Downs, librarian in Augusta County, and Grace Ryerson, French teacher at Waynesboro High School. Leona's husband began the grant-in-aid with a donation and Kappa Chapter has continued the tradition. One of the barriers to becoming an educator is the cost of college tuition and the cost of testing to become a certified teacher. Hopefully, Kappa's Grant will help these young ladies over that first barrier.

Leadership Seminar

The Virginia State Organization held its "Embrace Change" Leadership Seminar by Zoom on Saturday, March 26. It was exciting to have Kappa members participate in the workshop sessions and there were two group sessions. Workshops included "Preparing Future Educators for the Post-Pandemic World", "Membership and Marketing", "Discovery your Leadership Power", "We All Need Renewing," and others. As much as we all love our Saturdays for personal time, this seminar had some really interesting information and great presenters. It was a Saturday well spent. Consider attending the next VSO leadership seminar. You will be glad that you did!

Margaret Shifflett had three entries featured in the Fine Arts Gallery during the Leadership Seminar in March... "Winter Visitor", "Ohio Star Variation", and "Winter Snow."



Kappa on the Go

Interested in learning something new or stepping out of your comfort zone?? This summer, consider participating in a Kappa activity. Would you like to learn how to make cheese, create a stained-glass project, see an art exhibit, attend a concert or theatrical performance, learn to knit or visit a historical sight? There will be "interest sheets" at our May meeting for you to indicate your possible interest in one or more of these activities. If there is interest, we'll try to schedule those activities. This is a wonderful way to grow personally!

Science of Reading

If you teach reading in elementary school you are probably familiar with the buzzwords “Science of Reading”. Harrisonburg City Schools and Rockingham County Schools are in the process of training their teachers via LETRS so that their teachers understand this approach. LETRS is an in depth course looking at the research and science behind how people learn to read. For those not in the know “Science of Reading” refers to the body of scientific evidence that says how people learn to read. For the remainder of this article I will say SOR. I remember learning much of this information when I first began teaching in 2003 under the Title 1 program. It has come back in vogue with its new name. Essentially, it says that science shows when students are taught explicitly and sequentially in phonics and phonemic awareness they learn to read. Many detractors of this approach say that students do not learn comprehension or vocabulary skills. That is not what SOR says though. SOR says you need the phonics skills and language skills (comprehension and vocabulary) to be able to read.

An ideal K-2 reading program would divide the reading block into those 2 parts. The whole group time would focus on the vocabulary and comprehension piece by exposing children to rich read alouds and discussions. Some schools also use this time to include phonemic awareness skills with programs like Heggerty. The small group time would focus on the sequential and explicit phonics and phonemic awareness skills so students would be able to decode words. Small group instruction would follow a pathway so students would work on a specific phonics skill and read books that include that skill as well as a review of skills already learned. For example, if students are practicing CVC words the book they are working on would ideally limit the text to mostly CVC words and only a few sight words (or some people refer to them as heart words).

There are numerous programs that claim to be SOR based and this is where it gets confusing for many. Harrisonburg City Schools has endorsed one such program called OG. OG uses a print to speech approach. This approach teaches rules of print and then how to pronounce the sounds. A good example of this is when you get to words with syllables. Students are taught all the syllable types and how to divide words into syllables and based on the syllable type they can correctly pronounce the vowel sounds. There are other programs that follow this print to speech approach as well. Another approach is called speech to print approach. One such program that follows this approach is Reading Simplified. An example of how this approach works is that students learn all the spellings for the long O sound so they can read all long O words before moving onto another long vowel sound. By exposing students to all the variations at once they learn that there is more than one way to represent a sound in print. Both approaches follow SOR. A good way to vet a program is to make sure that the instruction has a sequential pathway so all skills are taught and that instruction is explicit.

This is SOR in a nutshell. Now you have a little more insight when you come across the words “Science of Reading”. For more information, please feel free to join the “Science of Reading - What I should have learned in college” group on Facebook or just google SOR.

Submitted by Sarah Nicklas



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



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