

## Mississippi State Organization Officer Nominees 2023-2025



### Nominee for Mississippi State Organization President — Stephanie Jones, Alpha Lambda

What an honor it is to be nominated to serve as the Mississippi State Organization President! If elected, it will be an incredible privilege to serve a state organization that I love so dearly. When I was inducted into Alpha Lambda chapter in 2005, I never dreamed that I would become active at the state level, but it didn't take long before I did just that. My experience at Leadership Management Seminar in 2009 was a springboard into opportunities to serve that gave me confidence and provided both professional and personal growth. My experience in leadership positions in both my chapter and in MSO have inspired my continued dedication to Delta Kappa Gamma. My attendance at many state conventions and regional/international conferences and conventions opened my eyes to all that goes on above the chapter level, and I left each event inspired to learn and do more. My experience with DKG Ignite this summer happened at just the right time, as it honed my leadership skills and gave me many useful leadership tools. In 2010 and again in 2019, I experienced life-altering illnesses that caused me to have to step back from DKG for periods of time. My DKG sisters across the state of Mississippi became my biggest supporters and cheerleaders, and they have seen me through incredibly difficult times. I'd like to give back to them and to an organization that has given me purpose and kept me moving forward. When I was absent for three years following a spinal infection that wreaked havoc, I returned to find many new faces in Mississippi State Organization. I attended our state convention in 2023 and realized that many of the members that I hadn't yet met were already actively participating in state positions, which was a wonderful surprise! I have since worked with many of these ladies and I know that they, along with our veteran members, have the skills, knowledge, and wisdom to help our state succeed as we move into the future. I look forward to working with the amazing team of officers that have been nominated for the 2025-2027 biennium, and I am confident that together we will proudly represent our state.



### Nominee for Mississippi State Organization First Vice President — Polly Ann White, Theta

When I was invited to join Delta Kappa Gamma, I had no idea how impactful this opportunity would become. I was fortunate to follow in the footsteps of my grandmother, Ella Neville White, and my mother, Sue White, who were both proud members of Theta Chapter. Many years later, I was honored to also join Theta Chapter and carry forward our family's tradition. Throughout my journey, I have lived in various areas of the state and had the privilege of being a member of chapters in different communities. This experience not only enriched my perspective but also fostered enduring friendships and provided valuable insights into the diverse strengths of our chapters. Over the years, I was encouraged to take on leadership roles at the local and state level and to serve as a chapter president.

While life's changes often moved me to new towns before I could fully commit, I finally accepted the challenge to become president in 2018. In 2019, I attended the Leadership Management Seminar, which inspired me to dive deeper into state-level involvement. I joined the membership committee and served as the SEE Representative for our state, reconnecting with many friends and mentors from past chapters.



### Nominee for Mississippi State Organization Second Vice President — Lady Ann Bruce, Alpha Upsilon

Lady Anne Bruce has been a member of DKG since 1998. As a member of Alpha Upsilon Chapter, she has served on and chaired numerous committees. Lady Anne served as President during two biennia, represented her chapter as Woman of Distinction, and received the Undine Thomas Scholarship Award. After graduating from the 2019 Leadership Management Seminar, she became more involved in MSO at the state and international levels. She served on the MSO Membership Committee where she became SEE Representative and Chairperson. She also served on the Headquarters Committee. Lady Anne is currently serving as Southern District Director and MSO State Convention Registrar. She has attended several International Conventions and Regional Conferences.

Lady Anne graduated from Mississippi State University receiving both bachelor's and master's degrees. She retired after 34 years in Career and Technical Education. She taught Cooperative Education, Marketing, Hotel and Restaurant Management, and served as a DECA Advisor. She was a National Board Certified Teacher and mentored Career Technical Instructors across the state.

Lady Anne lives in Diamondhead. She has two adult children, Laurel and Alan. She is a member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church where she has served on the Vestry and is currently a Chalice and Reader. She serves on the Hospitality Committee and is a member of the bell choir. She is also a member of the Diamondhead Women's Club.

### **Nominee for Mississippi State Organization Recording Secretary — Cindy Alsworth-Jones, Delta**



As a member of Delta Chapter of MSO since November 2002, I have served in many capacities within the chapter. At the State Level, I have served as a member of the Membership Committee, as Central District Director, and as the Recording Secretary for the past two biennia. I attended the Arts and Humanities International Meeting in Asheville, North Carolina, and the International Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana. I have attended district meetings in all parts of the state. I was a member of the 2019 Leadership Management Seminar. Membership in Delta Kappa Gamma is an enjoyable aspect of my life. I enjoy the leadership opportunities and collegiality provided by this organization. I have made life-long friends and grown in ways that I could never imagine. My husband, Mike, and I are the parents of a blended family that includes two sons, one daughter, and five grandchildren.

### **Nominee for Mississippi State Organization Northern District Director — Shirley Hamilton,**



Since becoming a member of Alpha Phi chapter in 2013, I have served my chapter as Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, Vice President, and am currently the President. Since attending LMS in 2015, I have been a member of several committees including Leadership Development, Bylaws and Standing Rules, Membership, and Policies and Procedures as well as serving as the Northern District Assistant Director. If elected, my hope is to encourage and inspire members to become more involved in DKG to support one another as well as support and mentor newer educators.

### **Nominee for Mississippi State Organization Northern District Assistant Director — Debbie Rogers, Alpha Phi**



My DKG journey began on February 5, 2005, when I was initiated in Zeta Chapter in the Southern District. I served as chapter corresponding secretary from 2006 until 2010. In 2010, I began to serve my first of 2 consecutive bienniums as Zeta Chapter president. When I stepped down as chapter president, I continued to serve my chapter as Communications Chair until 2020. At the state level I have served on several committees: Membership(2007-2009), Professional Affairs(2009-2011), Educational Excellence 2011-2013, and State Professional Affairs Chair(2011-2013). One of my greatest DKG experiences was attending Zeta State Leadership Management 2011. I was honored when my chapter selected me as Women of Distinction 2015. I attended Zeta State meetings in 2011, 2013, 2015 and Southern District 2010, 2012, 2014, and 2016. I attended International Conference, NYC 2012. My educational background consists of Masters in Education from University of Southern MS 1983 and Bachelor of Science University of Southern MS 1978. I earned an Associate Degree, Mississippi Gulf Coast in 1976. I taught in Harrison County Schools, 1980-1991, and 2007-2022, and was Mathematics Department Chair 2010-2022. I briefly taught Math in Biloxi Public Schools 2002-2007. I was honored to be selected 2013 Harrison County School District Secondary Teacher of the Year and Gulfport Chamber of Commerce 2013 Secondary Teacher of the Year. After teaching public school 31 years I retired. My husband and I moved to Tunica, Mississippi, to be close to our children and grandchildren (especially the grandchildren). I am a member of Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Robinsonville and a member of Tunica Women's Club. I transferred my membership to Alpha Delta. I am currently a member of our chapter Finance committee and serve as chair of our Communications and Marketing Committee. I had the pleasure of attending my first Northern District meeting last year. I have enjoyed our chapter's joint meeting with Beta Beta Chapter. I look forward to continuing my DKG journey in the Northern District!



### **Nominee for Mississippi State Organization Central District Director — Lindsay Griffith, Alpha Chi**

I have been a member of Alpha Chi since 2012. Within my chapter I have held various positions. I am currently the chapter secretary, but I have served as second vice president and president. At the state level I am currently the Central District Assistant Director. I am also serving on the LMS committee. I have also served on the scholarship committee and membership committee. At the international level I have been featured in the Art Gallery and was on a panel at the International convention in New Orleans.

I have been teaching math at Mendenhall High School since 2000. I am married with two children, a daughter-in-law and one granddaughter.

### Nominee for Mississippi State Organization Central District Assistant Director — Beth McKay, Pi



Beth McKay began her Delta Kappa Gamma journey in 2005 when she was selected as Pi Chapter's Grant-in-Aid. In 2006, after graduating from Millsaps with her degree in English, she began teaching at Pisgah High School. In 2010, Beth graduated with a M.A. English degree from Mississippi College and accepted an adjunct position with Hinds Community College. In 2011, she accepted an invitation to become a member of Pi where she has served on various committees such as the leadership development, red rose, communications, and chapter rules committees. In 2016, Beth was nominated for the position of corresponding secretary and began her DKG leadership journey. Beth has since served in the 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president, 1<sup>st</sup> vice president, and president positions. In 2023, she participated in Mississippi State Organization's Leadership Management Seminar, and Beth was one of twenty to be selected for DKG's 2024 Ignite. Beth loves to share her artistic talents; she has published articles in the *Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin: Collegial Exchange* and has had photographs selected for the art gallery. Beth currently serves as

Pi Chapter Past President, parliamentarian, and yearbook editor. In addition, she serves on MSO's Headquarters Committee.

### Nominee for Mississippi State Organization Southern District Director — Christy Sheffield, Alpha Alpha



In 2013, I received an invitation to join the wonderful group of ladies of Alpha Alpha, MSO, DKG. These women have been the source of joy in my life as they have encouraged and mentored me. In 2019 I joined the ranks of many others as a National Board Certified Teacher. That same year I also achieved National Geographic Certified Educator status and was awarded the Woman of Distinction by my chapter. In 2020-2021, I received the highest honor of Teacher of the Year for my school. I currently teach middle school STEM and science at Petal Middle School where I serve as the PLC leader for the department and cohort leader for the district. I am working hard to increase STEM awareness by building my school's first-ever STEM course as well as coaching our award-winning robotics teams. Alpha Alpha and MSO have given me many amazing opportunities to serve on both the

chapter and state level. I currently serve as my chapter's immediate past president and as the Assistant Southern District Director. If chosen, my goal would be to continue the legacy set forth by my predecessors in aiding our chapters by offering meaningful opportunities to grow both professionally and personally as we reach more key women educators.

### Nominee for Mississippi State Organization Southern District Assistant Director — Karla Smith, Zeta



Karla Smith, the nominee for Assistant Southern District Director, is retired after having worked in public and higher education for 35 years. She retired as a social science instructor at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

Karla Smith has been a member of Delta Kappa Gamma for 31 years. She was inducted into the Zeta Chapter in 1993. As a chapter member, she has served as President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Chair of the Professional Growth and Services, Professional Affairs, and Scrapbook committees, and currently serves as Recording Secretary. At the state level, Karla has served as both a member and Chair of the Scholarship and World Fellowship Committees. She currently serves as the World Fellowship Representative on the Educational Excellence Committee. Karla has attended several international conventions and regional conferences, multiple state conventions and district meetings. In 1995, Karla was a participant in the Zeta State Leadership Management Seminar. She was honored as Zeta Chapter's Woman of Distinction in 1999 and 2005.

## Mississippi State Organization Nominations Committee for 2021-2023 Northern District:



### Northern District: Janice Kelso Garrett, Eta

One of the most important and enlightening things I did in 2003 was to join Delta Kappa Gamma. The ladies I have met through DKG give tirelessly of themselves to our chosen profession of teaching and to each other. It has been an honor to serve in various leadership positions through my chapter, state, and international levels. Both my personal and professional life has been enhanced through my Delta Kappa Gamma affiliation. I look forward to serving Delta Kappa Gamma as a MSO Nominating Committee Member this biennium.

### Central District: Cheryl Saffle, Pi



Became member of Delta Kappa Gamma in 1987; Served as chairperson for various committees within my local chapter including Scholarship, Legislative, and Professional Growth and Services; Served as Secretary of Pi Chapter 2012-2014; Served as President of Pi Chapter 2014-2016; Served MSO on committees including Scholarship, Communications and Publicity, & EEC; Served as Communications and Publications Chair 2017-2019; Served as Professional Affairs Representative 2021 - present; Represented my local chapter at educational conferences in Savannah GA, Nashville TN, and Austin Texas; Selected as one of Mississippi's Delta Kappa Gamma Women of Distinction

Enjoyed being an educator for 48 years; Proud graduate of Mississippi State University with a degree in Elementary Education, Masters of Exceptional Education in areas of EMR, LD, & Gifted, Master's Degree - Elementary Education, Specialist's Degree in Early Childhood Education with an emphasis in Reading; National Board Certified – Early Childhood Generalist; Honored as Metro Teacher of the Year

Had the opportunity to prepare and present numerous teacher workshops for Mississippi State Department of Education, New Summit School, and Delta Kappa Gamma at the State and International levels; Selected to be a Scorer for National Board submissions; Selected to be a Trainer for scorers for National Board submissions; Selected to rewrite benchmarks for National Boards in Philadelphia PA and again in San Antonio TX.

Married to Thomas Owen Saffle, Jr. for 53 years. Proud mom of 3 sons and Nonnie to 7 grandchildren.

### Southern District: Beverly Hesterman, Alpha Alpha



Beverly Hesterman, a member of Alpha Alpha chapter in the Southern District, has been a member since 1999, serving as second vice-president, first vice-president and as president for three terms. She is presently the Parliamentarian. She serves on the following committees for Alpha Alpha: nominations, membership, leadership development as chairman, professional affairs, research and history, legislative as chairman and hospitality. State level committees include MSO Award's where she is chairman and MSO Leadership Development. She has also served as Southern District Assistant Director. She retired from Perry Central High School as a Social Studies teacher after 29 years.