

Mississippi State Organization



Zeta Data



*“Persistence with Purpose: Purposeful,
Expanding, Nurturing, Networking, Playing”*

Greetings!... by Debby Renfroe, MSO President



As I write this article, it is sunny and cool outside, a gorgeous day! These are sometimes referred to as “Chamber of Commerce Days.” My husband and I decided to seize an opportunity to enjoy brunch at one of our favorite spots and then run a few errands. It turned out to be a delightful morning.

This opportunity sort of landed into our laps. All we had to do was recognize it and take advantage of it. This was unlike other times, when we must seek opportunities to spend some quality time together during the day because our schedules keep us too busy. We are productively retired – not yet ready or, thankfully, required to be relegated to spend most of our time in a chair, on a sofa, or in a bed.

As I thought about this, recognizing, and acting upon an opportunity versus seeking out an opportunity, I considered more about how this happens. I don’t mean just for Stephen and me, but for us all. Think with me regarding these two occurrences. How many times do we take advantage of an opportunity that just happens along? How many times do we actively seek out an opportunity for a specific purpose? Do we prepare ourselves to recognize when opportunities come our way?

First, are we aware of our talents, abilities, and skills? Do we keep them honed for use when an opportunity presents itself? Think of the clubs, organizations, work, and religious groups with which you’re involved. When you have been asked about presenting, making, composing, sharing, caring, or doing, are you ready for that? Saying “yes,” being ready, and recognizing the opportunity, could be just what you need or should be doing – for yourself and for others.

Then, do you seek out opportunities for these same eventualities? Do you look for opportunities to use your talents, abilities, and skills? Do you pursue chances to make good use of your expertise in whatever area it lays? Or they lay? There are gracious, un-obnoxious ways to do this, to present what you do well. For example, if you’re an excellent baker, please feel free to bring me a cake or cookies!

Soon, your chapter will be seeking new officers and committee members. If you are asked, consider the opportunity based on your personal skills. Or, if you know there is something you are prepared to do, go on and volunteer! Recognize opportunities that come your way! Be an opportunity seeker! You just never know where they might lead or the joy they might bring.

Debby



Happy 100th Birthday!



RUBY JONES

On September 30, family and friends gathered in Clarksdale to celebrate the 100th birthday of Mrs. Ruby Jones, Iota Chapter. She also celebrated her 75th year of membership in The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Indeed, these are two amazing milestones. Congratulations to Mrs. Ruby!



DOROTHY SHANK

It's not every day that someone becomes a centenarian. On December 16, 2023 at First Baptist Church Meridian, Dorothy Shank was celebrated on her 100th birthday. Inducted into Gamma Chapter on May 8, 1967, Dorothy continues to be a faithful and supportive Delta Kappa Gamma member. Her own education included attending Chalk, Stevenson, Kate Griffin, and Meridian High School. Her college years were spent at Louisiana Tech. Dorothy's teaching career was spent at Meridian High School teaching typing and shorthand to 11th and 12th grade students. Her teaching extended to 2- and 3-year old preschoolers at First Baptist Church where



Did you know?

The Executive Board Meeting is February 24, 2024?

Our Membership and Expansion Committee does a “Monthly Membership Moment?”

This is the year we elect new chapter officers?

Our Leadership Committee trains new officers, June 7th and 8th, 2024?

Our Society’s International Convention is July 9th-13th? (see dkg.org)



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™

Mark your Calendar...

MSO Executive Board Meeting

February 24, 2024

First Baptist Church Mount Olive

305 Main Street

Mt. Olive, MS 39119

Registration begins at 9:30am. Executive Board Meeting begins at 10:30, followed by a luncheon.

Cost of Registration is \$35. Send Registration form and money to Linda Lightsey.

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS FEBRUARY 16!

2024 District Meetings... by Karen Rhodes, MSO 2nd Vice President

The **P**lanning for the growth and fellowship
Using the currents needs and interests, building
Relationships with educators in each District
Passionately about our efforts to connect
Our outstanding
Sisters
Everywhere!

of the District Meetings will provide our members with true spiritual fellowship. The three District Meetings are all designed to engage our members with workshops to provide growth in personal and society ways. We will also celebrate the accomplishments of our chapters and remember our members who have passed on during the past year. Registration is available on line or can be mailed in. Visit zetastatedkg.org and make plans to attend all three meetings. Registration opens at 8:00 with a light breakfast and concludes following our Moment of Memory at 2:00.



Central District Meeting

March 2, 2024

Thames Conference Center

Copiah Lincoln Community College

Deadline to register is February 15!

Go to zetastatedkg.org to register online or download the registration form.

Northern District Meeting

March 16, 2024

Everest Hub

Water Valley, MS

Deadline to register is March 2nd!

Go to zetastatedkg.org to register online or download the registration form.



Southern District Meeting

March 23, 2024

Scianna Hall

William Carey Tradition Campus

Biloxi, MS

Deadline to register is March 9th!

Go to zetastatedkg.org to register online or download the registration form.



We look forward to seeing you!... by Lynn Holliday, **HQ Committee Chair**

We hope that you're planning on attending the District Meetings in March! The District Directors, Assistant Directors and Session Committee members have planned a great meeting for you to enjoy.

The Headquarters Committee will again have the Silent Auction at each District Meeting. The members have worked hard on providing some fun and tempting items available in each District so that you can browse, before the General and after the First Sessions, purchase tickets, and put them in your favorite item bag(s). Tickets will be available for purchase before the General Session and before the First Session.

How much are the tickets? \$20.00 – 25 tickets, \$10.00 – 12 tickets, \$5.00 – 6 tickets and \$1.00 – 1 ticket.

Each District Meeting will have that “mystery gift(s)” so be sure to look for it! The tickets will be drawn during the Second Session and awardees' numbered ticket will be listed on the poster board before the Luncheon. You may pick up your item then.

The MSO Website will have the items to view **two weeks before each district meeting** so you will have an idea of the items to be available. As always, we will have a drawing for a “first timer” and a current member auction participant who is attending the luncheon at each District for registration reimbursement.

Come and enjoy socializing with your friends, learning new ideas, and having a good time! at

Make Plans for International Convention!



DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY PRESENTS THE

2024 International Convention

FEATURING AN AWARD WINNING AUTHOR & POET!

Featuring Speakers:
MARGOT SHETTERLY
&
ANDRE BRADFORD

📍 July 9-13, 2024 | National Harbor, MD

Legislative News... Janis McCoy, Chair

On January 2, 2024, the Mississippi Legislature convened for their 125-day session. The actions they take will impact each of our lives in some way.

The first week, they primarily dealt with organizational and start-up activities. This was essential since there were newly-elected State officers to be inaugurated, and the logistics of new legislators to be managed (offices, parking, etc.). Now, the work of the legislature has begun in earnest. The number of measures (bills) introduced during the first week to the beginning of the third week has almost quadrupled.

As a Delta Kappa Gamma member, or simply a good citizen, there may bills introduced in which you are interested. What you can do is:

Follow legislation.

Keep up with its progress through the legislative process.

Contact legislators to let them know your view – especially on committee hearings in which they are involved and prior to House votes.

Doing this requires some time and effort on your part, but is not difficult.

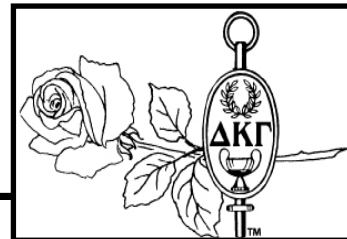
One of the websites I have found that provides you with all the information you need is: <https://www.legislature.ms.gov/>. It's an intuitive website.

To identify measures (bills) that have been introduced you can look under "Legislation." From there you can get the full text of measures (bills), the committee to which a bill has been assigned, and the current status. One way to do this is by selecting "All Measures Not Dead." Another way to get this information is by selecting "Daily Action Reports," but realize that is the activity only for that particular day. Notice: there are very similar listings for both the House of Representatives and the Senate – that is important.

Noting the Committee to which a bill has been assigned is very important because most bills die in committee without "ever seeing the light of day." That means if you are interested in a bill, you need to know who is on the House or Senate committee to which a bill has been assigned and when it will be discussed. By going to "Legislation" and selecting the appropriate legislative committee listing, you can then select the committee to which a bill has been assigned. Then you can go to "Calendars and Schedules" to find when the bill will be dealt with in the committee.

When a bill is in committee, it is extremely important to contact the lawmakers involved. To get information on legislators, select "Legislators." By selecting either "Representative" or "Senator" you will get personal and legislative information (including committee assignments) about that lawmaker. For additional contact information, look under "Roster" – it will have an office phone number and email address for each legislator.

MSO relies on YOU to help the men and women we elect to enact laws we feel are best for our State. Thank you, in advance, for your initiative in doing this!



Zeta Chapter News ...by Zeta Chapter

This has been a year of “Fun and Games” for the Zeta Chapter, and we have loved every meeting! Our project this year focused on supporting early educators and low socioeconomic students, and promoting literacy and classroom community! Chapter members collected books for little classroom libraries at local elementary schools. We also collected games and manipulatives for elementary students and donated them to early educator classrooms. Teachers reported that they used the games for rewards, differentiation, supplemental practice, and FUN!

Chapter Leaders Retreat... by Janice Garrett, **Leadership Development Chair**

Are You Ready?

The MSO Leadership Development Committee hit the ground running with planning for the 2024-26 biennium. The Chapter Leader’s Retreat will be held on June 7-8, 2024, at Copiah Academy, 1144 E Gellman Rd, Gallman. Chapter presidents are invited to a time of introductions and fellowship on Friday, June 7, with all other officers attending on Saturday, June 8.

State committee chairs are already gearing up to make sure new chapter officers across the state feel prepared and ready to step into their leadership roles for the 2024-2026 biennium. Sessions are planned for Presidents, Program Chairmen, Membership Chairmen, Communications Chairmen, and Treasurers, but each incoming officer is invited to attend.

The venue for the Leadership Management Seminar 2025 has been selected. LMS will be returning to Eagle Ridge Conference Center in Raymond. Check out our LMS promotion booth at your district meeting and slip into our breakout session: What do YOU Know? and meet your MSO Leadership Development Committee.

Let us help you as you move forward with Purpose to expand, nurture, network and play alongside your chapters! We are looking forward to seeing you all in March at the MSO District Meetings!

Please make a note of these changes:

MSO Second Vice President Karen Rhodes:
rhodesk12015@gmail.com

MSO Treasurer Lynn Holliday:
lynndkg@gmail.com



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Mississippi State Organization District Meetings
 Persistence with Purpose:
 Expanding · Nurturing · Networking · Playing

Name _____ Chapter _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

Registration/Refreshments: 8:00 am - 9:00 am
 Meetings/Luncheon: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
 THERE WILL BE NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION

Indicate which meeting you will be attending:

___ **Central District** (March 2, 2024), Copiah Lincoln Community College, Thames Conference Center, 1084 Lake Rd, Wesson

___ **Northern District** (March 16, 2024), Everest Hub, 802 Central St, Water Valley

___ **Southern District** (March 23, 2024), William Carey University Tradition Campus, Scianna Hall 19640 MS 67, Biloxi

Check if applicable:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ___ Chapter President | ___ State Committee Chairman |
| ___ State Officer | ___ ECE (Early Career Educator) |
| ___ State Related Personnel | ___ Guest |
| ___ Past State President | ___ Dietary Restriction |
| ___ Attending First Time | Please specify _____ |

Registration and Luncheon Fees: \$40

Central District Deadline: postmarked February 15, 2024

Northern District Deadline: postmarked March 2, 2024

Southern District Deadline: postmarked March 9, 2024

Make checks payable to: DKG Northern District, DKG Southern District, or DKG Central District

Mail Registration Forms to:

<u>Central District</u>	<u>Northern District</u>	<u>Southern District</u>
Lynn Holliday	Misty Whitehead	Karen Fayard
106 Oakdale Street	254 Cotton Lane	778 Whitney Drive
Florence, MS 39073	Holly Springs, MS 38635	Biloxi, MS 39532

Please indicate permission to use your photo in State Publications: ___ Yes ___ No

DONATIONS:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ___ MSO Emergency Fund | ___ Grant-in-Aid Fund |
| ___ Leadership Management Fund | ___ Mary Stuart Harmon Fund |
| Other _____ | |

Dates to Remember...

2024		
January 15	<i>Zeta Data</i> Deadline (to MSO President)	
February 3	District Directors Scholarship EEC -----Lunch @ 11:30----- Mary Stuart Harmon Board Membership Finance (Other committees that need to meet)	10:00
		12:30
February 24	MSO Executive Board Meeting	
March 2	Central District Meeting, Copiah Lincoln Community Center	
March 16	Northern District Meeting, Everest Hub, Water Valley	
March 23	Southern District Meeting, William Carey University, Tradition Campus, Biloxi	
April 15	<i>Zeta Data</i> Deadline (to MSO President)	
June	Chapter Leaders Retreat, Copiah Academy, Gallman	
July 9-13	International Convention, National Harbor, Maryland; Gaylord National, DC area	



**Alpha Chi Chapter had a great time in the D’Lo Christmas Parade!
This was a first, but not the last!**

2023-2025 Mississippi State Officers

President.....	Debby Renfroe
1st Vice President.....	Stephanie Jones
2nd Vice President.....	Karen Rhodes
Recording Secretary.....	Cindy Alsworth Jones
Treasurer.....	Lynn Holliday
Executive Secretary.....	Linda Lightsey
Parliamentarian.....	Jean Ricks
Immediate Past President.....	Janice Garrett
Northern District Director.....	Misty Whitehead
Northern District Assistant Director.....	Shirley Hamilton
Central District Director.....	Polly Ann White
Central District Assistant Director.....	Lindsay Griffith
Southern District Director.....	Lady Ann Bruce
Southern District Assistant Director.....	Christy Sheffield
Mississippi State Web Master.....	Toni Cook
ZETA DATA Editor.....	Tracey Crawford

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