



From A to Z *Alpha Zeta Chapter*

NC DKG North Carolina State Organization

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Region VIII

Mecklenburg and Union Counties

President's Message

Dear Alpha Zeta Sisters,

What a summer it has been already, and we're only halfway there! I trust that you all are enjoying this vacation time and spending lots of fun time with your families and loved ones. Our family spent some time, following a crazy series of plane delays and cancellations, in Rome this summer and made some day trips to Florence, Sicily, and the Amalfi Coast. Deb Christensen was in Florence on the exact same day, but that DKG magic didn't quite kick in and we never got to cross paths. On the work side of things, I have to give a big shout out to Kim Schroeder, who was recently named as an area superintendent in Charlotte-Mecklenburg! Go go go Kim; we are all so proud of you!

At the end of June I sent out a survey to the membership asking about committee and leadership preferences. If you have not had a chance to fill it out, please do so as I will be working on these rosters in the coming weeks. If you need the survey sent to you, please reach out to me at drpclarke1998@yahoo.com.

I have spent some time working on plans for the next biennium, with the guidance of our wonderful past presidents Janie Webb and Deb Christensen. I am excited about the coming years and would like to share with you the schedule of meetings for the 2022-2023 school year. Times and locations to be determined:

Saturday, September 17, 2022

Saturday, November 5, 2022

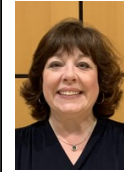
Saturday, February 4, 2023

Saturday, April 1, 2023

I have not set an executive board meeting yet but will be doing that soon.

I cannot wait to see you all and hear your stories about what is happening in your lives, and I look forward to seeing you in our meetings this year. Remember - you will get from DKG what you put into it, plus so much more!!

Yours in Sisterhood,
Dr. Rachel Clarke
Alpha Zeta President



PRESIDENT:

[DR. RACHEL CLARKE](#)



EDITOR:

[PAULA TAUTFEST](#)



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Mission Statement

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

Elevator Speech

Delta Kappa Gamma is an international honor society of women educators, which encourages and supports professional growth through legislative efforts, conferences, workshops, and offers scholarships to members and future educators.

Theme

“DKG: Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide.”

Linking the Past, Present, and Future

“DKG: Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide”

Upcoming Events

July 1 Beginning of new DKG year and new biennium

July 12-16 International Convention, New Orleans, LA

July 15 Form 15 due from chapters to state treasurer

July 26 ASK Time for chapter presidents

Aug. 1 *Bulletin: Collegial Exchange* submissions due

Aug. 1 *NC DKG News* deadline

Aug. 15-Sept. 15 Arts & Humanities Gallery submission window open

Aug. 23 ASK Time for chapter presidents

Sept. 15 International Speaker applications due

Sept. 24 NC DKG Fall Executive Board Meeting, Greensboro

Sept. 27 ASK Time for chapter presidents

Sept. 30 NC DKG Educational Foundation Grants applications due

Sept. 30 Deadline to enter dues into portal to avoid members being dropped

Alpha Zeta Meetings:

September 17, 2022

November 5, 2022

February 4, 2023

April 1, 2023

Conventions:

July 12-16, 2022 — International Convention, New Orleans, LA

April 28-30, 2023 — NC DKG Convention, Greenville

Also check the NC DKG calendar online at <https://www.ncdkg.org/calendar.html>.

September Meeting Information

When: September 17, 2022

Time: 10:00 am—12:00 pm

Where: TBA

Alpha Zeta News

NC DKG Convention Recap

At the NC DKG Convention in Asheville at the end of April, Janie Webb, Louise Napier, Rachel Clarke, and Deb Christensen represented for Alpha Zeta. At Friday night’s award ceremony Alpha Zeta won a Superior Chapter Achievement Award, the Communications Excellence Award, and Louise Napier won a Golden Key Award!!! Yay, Louise! Louise joins Grace Faris and Tommie Wall as our Golden Key winners! What great representatives of Alpha Zeta!! Janie was also one of the flag bearers on Friday night and carried the United States Flag into the meeting room. On Sunday at the Ceremony of Remembrance we honored Alpha Zeta’s Linda Klein and other NC DKG sisters who passed away in the past year. It was a moving ceremony.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

July	
9	Jennifer Mitchell
10	Janie Collins
18	Michelle Goode
20	Diane Maye
22	Gladys Kerr

August	
11	Brenda Owens
12	Susan Williams
16	Sylvia Little-Sweat
18	Elizabeth Mitcham
25	Dr. Rachel Clarke



Alpha Zeta New Member Bios

At our April 2, 2022 meeting we were pleased to induct three new members into the Alpha Zeta chapter. Meet them below!



Linda Little is the Transition Specialist for Union County Public Schools. In her position she assists students with disabilities and their families in preparing for life after high school in the areas of Postsecondary Education, Employment and Independent Living. During her 20 years with Union County Public Schools, she has coordinated several community collaboratives with NC Vocational Rehabilitation, South Piedmont Community College and Atrium Health Union which have provided increased educational and vocational opportunities for individuals with disabilities. She is the Coordinator of the Union County Annual Transition Fair and the Union County EveryBody Works Collaborative. Her newest project, The Coffee Nut is a coffee café within the community which provides students with disabilities opportunity to participate in vocational training in a "true" work environment. Linda is also currently the President & 2023

Conference Coordinator for the NC CEC-Division on Career Development & Transition and a Certified Global Career Developmental Facilitator (GCDF). She has a Master's degree in Elementary Education from Pfeiffer University and a Master's degree in Secondary Special Education & Transition from the George Washington University. Prior to her career in education, she was a Human Resources Director in Hospitality for 13 years. Linda strongly believes in the following quote:

"It is not what you do for children but what you have taught them to do for themselves that make them successful human beings." - Ann Landers



Jen Mitchell is going into her twentieth year of teaching, and she is currently teaching English (Honors Advanced Inquiry, Honors English III, and AP Language and Composition) at Cuthbertson High School. She has one daughter (Allie) who is nine and involved in soccer, dance, Girls on The Run of Union County, and tumbling. Jen also has an amazing husband named Rob, and they have been married for twelve years. Jen is a member of the Union County Library Foundation Board, and she serves as their Community Outreach Chair. She also advises the National Honor Society organization and Creative Writer's Club at Cuthbertson High School. Jen is a member of her neighborhood social committee, and she volunteers extensively in the community. Jen enjoys reading, working in the yard, and spending time

with friends and family. She is so excited to be a part of this amazing sisterhood, and she is eager to become involved in this outstanding organization.



Currently an Assistant Principal at Marvin Ridge Middle School in Union County, Susan Williams lives with her husband in Weddington and has two daughters, both who live out of the home. She adores her granddaughter and grandson, who live in Greenville, SC. Her interests include reading, gardening, baseball and the new Charlotte Football Club.

Linking the Past, Present, and Future
“DKG: Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide”

Update MyProfile on DKG Website

Is your email up to date in your MyProfile with DKG? Have you changed jobs and had your previous school email listed? Added another email that you use more than the old one? NC DKG leaders are trying to determine a better way to communicate with all members than asking presidents to do all the work. Accurate emails are needed, however!

Please log in to the [DKG website](#), go to the MyDKG tab, and click on the pencil icon to update your information. The next step is to share your information with other DKG members (*members only*) by clicking on the My Participation tab in the red bar and choosing ‘Yes, include my profile in the Members Only Online Directory.’ Someone you met at convention may be trying to find you! Find a helpful tutorial on updating your MyProfile on the [Communications and Marketing \(C&M\) Committee page](#).

Alpha Zeta Chapter News

- **Deb Christensen** and her mom took an amazing trip this summer! Here is what she shared:

“My mom and I took a two-week Viking ocean cruise in the Mediterranean. We started in Venice, Italy and then went to Split and Dubrovnik in Croatia, and on to Corfu, Greece. We had a day at sea as we sailed to reach Naples, Italy. Our next ports were in Rome and Florence, Italy before we headed to Monte Carlo, Monaco; Marseille, France; and finally Barcelona, Spain. Along the way we went on excursions every day (sometimes two in a day!) and walked many miles. We saw beautiful landscapes, fabulous architecture, and learned so much! I posted photos and a travelogue on my Facebook page for the whole trip so if you’re interested you can send me a friend request and view the pictures. The airline never loaded my mom’s suitcase on the flight from Charlotte so she was trying to find places in each port to buy shorts and shirts, etc. Thankfully there was a laundry on board the ship! We laughed and cried through our adventures before arriving home on July 6th and then promptly tested positive for Covid. Thankfully we are vaccinated and double boosted so our symptoms have been fairly mild. Be safe out there, this latest strain is very contagious!”

- Congratulations to **Dr. Kimberly Schroeder** who was named a Learning Community Superintendent in CMS. Schroeder has been executive director of the Southwest Learning Community in CMS since 2020. Prior to that position, she served as EPIC Grant Director for Union County Schools from 2018-2020. She also served as principal at Cuthbertson High School in Waxhaw, NC from 2012-2018.

- **Paula Tautfest** retired from Union County Public Schools (Cuthbertson High School) on June 1, 2022. She worked as a Media Specialist for 36 years—20 years elementary, 3 years middle school, and 13 years high school in the states of Oregon, South Carolina and North Carolina. She loved every minute of her career but is now looking forward to spending more time with family (including 3 little grandsons) and has a list of projects to work on!

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NC DKG News

Educational Excellence By: *Hilda Parlér, EEC Chair*



Celebrate!

Host a 10th or 25th “Anniversary Reunion.” Invite former members. This is a time to renew friendships and recruit them to rejoin your chapter. Ask all members to share their best moments of what they experienced in the chapter during those years and what they expect for the future in the chapter. This is also a perfect time to recognize milestones of members and present them a framed certificate. This could inspire the former members to return as they see their membership will be recognized and valued.

The 2023 NC DKG Convention Chair Phyllis Broughton invites you to the “Emerald City,” Greenville, NC, April 28-30! Preparations are already underway. Watch for more information in the coming months and mark your calendar now!



ELP Presentation Online

By: Malinda Pennington, ELP Committee Chair

Missed the Convention? Enjoy the Educational Law and Policy (ELP) Committee Presentation available in our News and Resources folder (<https://bit.ly/NCDKG-ELP>).

Voting is a powerful way to advocate. The presentation contains steps to advocate for schools and teachers, information about your ballot reflecting important races in your area and other voting tips. Stay informed on critical topics such as the new proposed changes to teacher licensure and advancement and the proposed “Parents Bill of Rights” (NC House Bill 755), which can have great impact on our schools.

If you would like a member of the NC ELP Committee to present to your chapter, please contact us at ncdkg.elp.chair@gmail.com (remove the space).

Strengthen Your Links Through



Membership

One often-overlooked membership advantage is access to the DKG Store. Look for the red store logo (left) on the homepage of the Member-side of the DKG website. (If you have never logged in to it, ask your chapter president for the generic password or click the Chat icon to ask Membership Services for it.)



The Store is divided into three parts. The Main Store contains membership kits, new member certificates, brochures, and more. The Other Branded and Society Items gives you access to crest or logo headstone markers and the *Our Heritage* books. The link to Awards Concepts gives access to the cherished DKG branded items, such as pins, bags, notepads, umbrellas, seals, decals, and magnets. Show your DKG pride and instill it in others by sharing a loaged item with another member.

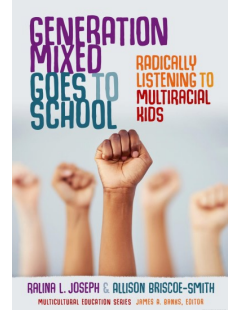


Linking the Past, Present, and Future
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DKG International

Educators Book Award Winners Announced

The Educators Book Award Committee “recognizes women authors whose educational research and writing potentially impact the thoughts and actions of today’s complex society.” They presented the annual Educators Book Award for 2022 to Ralina L. Joseph and Allison Briscoe-Smith for their book *Generation Mixed Goes to School: Radically Listening to Multiracial Kids*. Read more about the book and the committee’s comments online. Honorable Mentions went to *Segregation by Experience: Agency, Racism, and Learning in the Early Grades* by Jennifer Keoys Adair and Kiyomi Sanchez-Suzuki Colegrove and to *Emotionally Responsive Practice: A Path for Schools that Heal, Infancy—Grade 6* by Lesley Koplou.



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Read the summer issue of NC DKG News at

https://www.ncdkg.org/uploads/8/0/8/5/80859646/summer_2022_nc_dkg_news_vol._81-4_color.pdf

DKG Publications

(click on image
to go to publication)



**The Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin
International Journal for Professional Educators**



Get Connected!

Linking the Past, Present, and Future
“DKG: Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide”

Alpha Zeta News

April 2022 Meeting

We had a great meeting in April and here are a couple of photos from our new member induction and our officer installation.



Introducing Susan Williams, Jennifer Mitchell, and Linda Little.



Officer Installation: Nancy Smith, Secretary; Missy Howell, Parliamentarian; Rachel Clarke, President; Lisa Stephens, Treasurer; Kim Schroeder and Janie Webb, Co-Vice Presidents.

Past President's Message

Dear Alpha Zeta Sisters,

What an unusual couple of years! Thank you to everyone for your unfailing support and perseverance through these challenging times. You all have a lot to be proud of and it was my privilege to be your president the last two years. I was grateful to have Janie available whenever I needed a sounding board or advice and great committee chairs and members helping to do the work of our chapter. We continued to have successful auctions and award scholarships. We added new members and donated supplies to Turning Point. Through Zoom calls, masks, social distancing, and a canceled in-person meeting, Alpha Zeta kept going! I know our chapter is in good hands with our new officers. With Paula taking over the newsletter too I feel like I'm being a slacker but I will continue to be active in the role of past president.

In Sisterhood,
 Deb



Important Websites

www.alphazetanc.weebly.com

www.dkg.org

www.ncdkg.org

www.facebook.com/groups/AlphaZetaNC/