

Alpha Kappa Chapter
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Zoom ELC Program and Business Meeting, March 11, 2021
Submitted by Nikki Abels

Members in Attendance: Nancy Rosenbaum, Nancy Henning, Jean Kinney, Melanie Hester, Connie Lewis, Rhonda Work, Delores Hudson, Alice-Ann Darrow, Monica Hayes, Allyson Watson, and Deborah Hannah.

Guests in Attendance: Catherine Deininger, Kara Palmer Smith and Lorraine Wells.

Program Introduction: Monica Hayes introduced our guests from the ELC for our program. Kara Palmer Smith is the new COO, Lorraine Wells is the Community Relations Manager and Catherine Deininger heads Child Welfare and Resources.

Kara thanked Alpha Kappa for the 259 books we donated. She explained that there are 30 ELCs across Florida. Our local one serves 7 counties in the Big Bend area. They have a budget of around \$30 million for this year. Their focus is to prepare young children for school and to keep them and their families safe and secure. Eligible families can get child care help so they can work. Through the Office of Early Learning, funding is available for all VPK children regardless of income. The School Readiness program helps low-income families with child care and child development.

Kara shared her vision for the future. She is very excited about her new team and their enthusiasm and experience. She values the partnership with Alpha Kappa and wants it to continue. She sees a nice increase in outreach and communication within the community. They are planning to begin minimal contact outreach (due to Covid) for the parents by establishing drive-thru offering resources, materials, etc. Some other projects they are working on include: Insights Newsletter, Safe Sleep Kits, Fight for Literacy, Children's Week, and Word of the South. They also celebrated their 20th anniversary on February 28 this year. She did request that we consider using Amazon to donate books, again due to the Covid pandemic. During the Q & A, Lorraine said they would continue outreach with the families by handing out books in the pick-up/drop-off lines at various schools. She also mentioned "Celebrity Read" in which we can participate by reading to children. They also provide a "gift box" for the children and families which includes a book and information for the families. Kara then thanked us all again and said she is very excited about this year and our partnership.

Business Meeting

Call to Order: Nancy R. called the business portion of the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Approval of Minutes: Monica H. moved that the minutes of our last meeting be approved. They are published on our website.

Treasurer's Report: Rhonda W. reported that AK will cover the following: some expenses for Nancy R. to travel to Lake Mary, and registration for Susan V. and Nancy R. if they go to the Jessalyn McBride Leadership conference. She reminded us that the annual dues notice will go out around April 1. The dues deadline is June 30. She also reported that our bank statement balanced with our bank statement. The report will be filed for audit.

Correspondence: Nancy R. read the thank you notes from Patti Brownstein and Janie Tucker for our help with some school supplies. Melanie Hester thanked us in person (on Zoom) for our help with her science department's much-needed supplies. Nancy said that we still have monies left to distribute to teachers. We will look at distributing those funds in the fall.

Old Business: Nancy R. shared the Lundquist House video with the group. Connie will include the video link in our newsletter. Nancy reported that Felicia received an email with an updated wish list. This list has been sent to Gale W. to update for our sign-up genius.

New Business: Nancy R. reported that Janie Register has had to step down as President-Elect due to personal reasons. Monica Hayes graciously volunteered to serve in that capacity. Nancy and all members present, thanked Monica and welcomed her to her new position on the board.

Announcements and Reminders: Nancy R. encouraged us to join the “Alpha Kappa-Delta Kappa Gamma International” Facebook Group. Connie will add this information to our newsletter. She also encouraged us to share “Something Good”. Be on the lookout for an e-mail for a link to share something good that is happening in your life. The Florida DKG State Convention will be Friday 4/30 to 5/1/2021. Some of it will be in person and some will be virtual via Zoom. The Zoom fee is \$20 and the general registration is \$60. The registration form is on the state web site and in the Florida Rays. Our next meeting is Founders’ Day, May 15, 2021 at 10 am.

Sharing/Open Floor: Rhonda thanked Alice-Ann for sharing her non-human companion as did several of the other members. We all agreed that in these days and times, they are truly a blessing to have around.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 pm.