

Kappa Kappa Iota

Lambda State Kan Kan

Fall Issue, 2024, 5th edition
Kathy Russell, Editor

From the desk of the President



Melinda's State Theme

Dear Fellow Kappas,

A New Year is beginning for us all.

I am excited about this year for us. I hope you all had a good summer. My hope is that you look forward to making this year a ***Year of Growth*** for Lambda State. **Therefore, my challenge to each Chapter is one of "Getting a NEW Member" during year while maintaining our current members.**

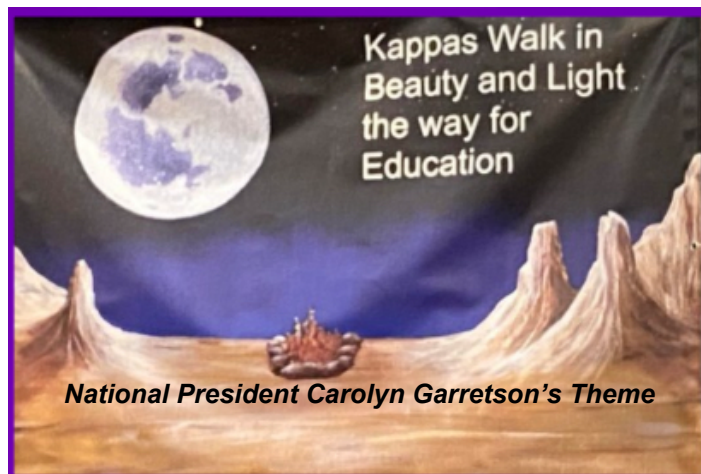
We also need to encourage our members to not only pay dues, but also attend State Meetings. Learning more about Kappa and spreading the word to former, retired, and current teachers that we are a "fun group" to be involved with is necessary to encourage new members.

I hope each of you will have a good year, whether you are actively teaching, or retired. I look forward to seeing all of you in Lawrenceville who can attend the Fall meeting.

Melinda Sams

Lambda State President

Kappa Kappa Iota





Fall Festival

Saturday, October 19, 2024

11:00 a.m.

Executive Committee (elected officers) will meet at 10:30 a.m.

Delmar Gardens

3100 Club Drive, Lawrenceville, GA.

When arriving at the facility, turn left at the first driveway and park in this lot. Enter under the portico and either walk up the staircase or take the elevator to the second floor.

Lunch cost: \$10.00. RSVP by Wed., Oct. 16 to Loretta: (678) 488-7652

Please remember to bring any K and/or G dollar bills.

K bills go to National; G bills will go toward our convention fund.



Items will be available for Raffle, bring \$\$\$ for tickets!



Zoom Link: Oct 19, 2024 10:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Meeting ID. 844 0222 0210.

Security. checkedPasscode. *****.

checked Waiting Room.

Attendees. Enable Continuous Meeting Chat.

Invite Link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84402220210?pwd=lnlQ8WpaXkhvVWlazzvDCYtoRjz5za.1>



Lambda State at National Convention

Montgomery, AL; June 24-27, 2024



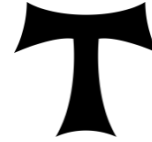
Front Row: Marcelle Bridgeman, Melinda Sams, Anita Beasley, Carol Lunsford, Kathy Russell

Back Row: Jeff Bridgeman, Billy Sams, Carol Hilburn, Carolyn Wilkins, Ken Russell



News from our Chapters

Tales from Tau



“Tau Chapter, met in August to plan for our year! Barbara hosted us at her home. We are excited to offer a grant, welcome new members, and begin planning the 2027 Convention in Savannah!”



Members of Calhoun’s American Legion Auxiliary attended the Department of Georgia 103rd Annual Convention June 28 through 30, in Duluth. Unit 47 Paul Gwin was attended by Past Department of Georgia President, **Dr. Joann T. Meadows** and Unit 47 Paul Gwin President, Margaret Jones. The unit received the following Honorable Mention Certificates: Americanism, Education, Past Presidents Parley, Public Relations, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. Dr. Joann T. Meadows presented the Courtesy Reading to the convention at the D.E.C. held on Sunday and was appointed the Resolutions Chairperson for the Department of Georgia by 2024-2025 President Cheryl Waybright from Smyrna.



Ken Russell played Bill French in Dalton Little Theater’s August production of *Grand Horizons*; “the patriarch of the French family and the epitome of success that comes from hard work and stiff upper lip perseverance. After fifty years of marriage, he is tasked with reevaluating assumptions about himself and his relationship with his wife and sons. (Does success = happiness?)”



Ken and Kathy Russell celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary in Charleston, SC with their two adult children in July. Sightseeing visits included Fort Sumter, historic homes, Plantations, and a horse-drawn carriage Ghost Tour.

Carolyn Wilkins, NEC first vice-president, and **Melinda Sams**, Lambda State president, attended the State President’s meeting in Tulsa the first weekend in October.



Theta chapter ended their 23-24 year with an outing to the Southern Origin Meadery in Canon, GA. We enjoyed a delicious meal on their patio on a beautiful spring afternoon in May and had the owner explain how their company came to be and how mead is made and the other products their store sells. Before shopping, we had our installation of 24-25 officers for Theta with a garden theme. Our officers this year are: President, Anita Beasley, Vice President, Carol Hilburn, Secretary, Ann Jones, Treasurer, Brenda Toebben.

Theta chapter had their first meeting of the 24-25 year on September 28th at Brenda Toebben's house. We welcomed our guest, Carolynn Wilkins, Tau member and National First Vice President to speak to us about issues and new data collecting in special education in Georgia. We enjoyed our visit with Carolyn and getting caught up with one another after the summer break over a light luncheon prepared by several members.

After thirty years of teaching **Stacey Laverick** retired in May of this year. Stacey taught grades ranging from Kindergarten to Fourth grade. She spent six years in Muskogee County Schools, sixteen years in Dekalb County Schools, and eight years in Henry County Schools. Stacey hopes to spend more time with her family and travel more.

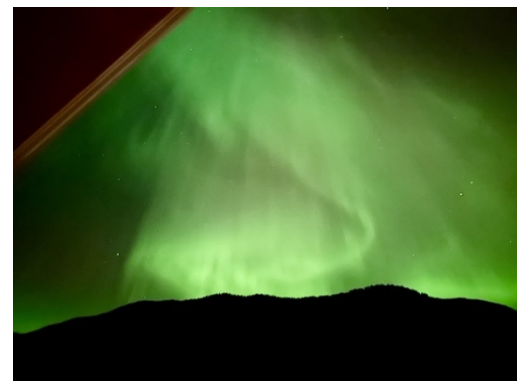


Anita Beasley and six other members of her family traveled to Glacier National Park the first week in September. They enjoyed staying in the historic lodges in the parks, riding the historic boats on three of the different lakes in the park, seeing the wildlife in the park and enjoying family time together. Mid-week during the stay, they traveled over the Canadian border to visit Waterton National Park (Glacier's sister park divided by the international border). They all loved the British/Scottish feel to the lodge and the friendliness of the Canadian

people. Some of the group, enjoyed a true English tea. At the end of the week, everyone except Anita and her son, Kirk, went back to their homes in 3 different states and Anita and Kirk started their trip to Kirk's next travel nurse assignment in Sitka, Alaska. The trip took them through British Columbia, Canada to the historic Alaskan Highway, then into the Yukon Territory to the Klondike Highway into Skagway. They spent a weekend exploring Skagway with all its Alaskan Gold Rush history before

boarding a ferry to take them to Sitka. Once there and after moving Kirk in, they had a chance to explore Sitka before Anita returned home. Highlights of the trip included: seeing the beautiful landscapes throughout the trip including the teal or brilliant blue lakes and rivers fed by glacier silt, seeing the Northern Lights, swimming in natural heated mineral springs in September in the Yukon, riding the White Pass & Yukon Railroad through the passes that the gold rush people

traveled through on foot or horseback, and the wildlife along the roads.



Anita recently learned that she and Wayne will be great-grandparents for the third time! Baby Beasley is due in April. With siblings, Reagan (4) and Lincoln (2), they are waiting to find out if the parents continue with the presidents' name theme; which the parents didn't realize they had done until after their son was born. Anita also has grandsons named Jackson and Carter – two other presidents' last name. Will there be a Madison, Grant, or Kennedy next??

In May, **Loretta's** Colorado family came to visit for a few days before going to Hilton Head Island for a week. Then the family all traveled together to Colorado.

She spent the summer in Colorado enjoying days with her grandchildren. Catherine is learning aerial gymnastics and Ian started Middle School.



Loretta also attended a family reunion in Iowa - always great to see the family, my sister and my brothers.

Loretta and her friend, Nancy, did a four-day REI Hike in the Sedona Desert. Loved the scenery, the shopping, and the food, but not so much the hike in the heat!!



Bel Mountain - our first hike



Montezuma Castle

Mu Crew News A Virtual Only Chapter

M



Mu Chapter's first meeting of the 2024-2025 year featured guest speaker Christine Pennington. Pennington received a non-Kappa grant during the 2024 convention in Montgomery, Alabama. Pennington presented information on how the program Resilient-Pathways came into being and the impact it has on the community and the students in need of the program's services. Pennington shared the business website and email address for the attendees to keep up to date

with the program. The website and email are: <https://www.resilient-pathways.com/---2yourpathway@gmail.com>



Member **Lori Burks** is planning a cruise this fall. Exciting times for her as she is also buying a NEW CAR. This past summer a tree fell onto her car crushing it.



Kathy Crocker-Paridon's summer was very eventful. Many trips were made to Ohio when her mother passed away. She dealt with carpal tunnel surgery. Kathy is known for her running in the Peachtree Road Race in Atlanta. Kathy stated, "I did the Peachtree Road Race in Italy this year." She and her husband Tony were part of a tour to Senento, Pompei, Otranto, and Amalfi Sosta Al Porto, Italy (the southernmost tip of the Italian boot), Old Town Dubrovnik, Croatia, and Istanbul. You can find photos on her Facebook Page

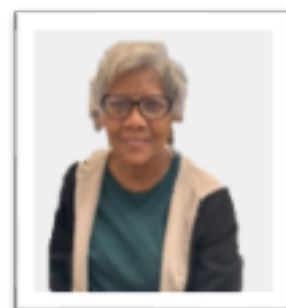
<https://www.facebook.com/kathy.asherpar.>

Member **Dr. Barbara D. Culp** sends daily nuggets of information to educators through her business Facebook page. Mu Chapter then sends those nuggets to the National Kappa Kappa Iota Facebook page. She was awarded with a Wish of a Lifetime request to attend the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE) conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Barbara was selected for the Woman & Words incubator program, moving a manuscript of hers forward which includes a gathering with literary agents. Preparing herself for this event, Dr. Barbara participated in a ZOOM "Know Before You Go" session. Dr. Barbara's *Words of Wisdom* Series is being updated to meet current educational practices and priorities.



Member **Evelyn Davidson** stays busy volunteering with the local food bank and assisting with poll workers. Evelyn states her Kappa Guy (former member Mark Davidson) will be officially retiring from teaching [again] this December.



Mu Chapter's newest member, **Laurel Colgate** brings a font of knowledge of Philanthropy, Professional Enrichment and Professional Development to Mu Chapter. She stays busy with Kappa as she is also a member of XI Chapter (FL) serving as president of her local chapter there. She provides Mu Chapter with Professional Enrichment opportunities. Busy with her business www.CNILINC.Com Laurel uses her International Certification to teach students with Autism and Dyslexia. She is often asked to be a conference speaker in her area of expertise.



She will soon be participating in a cruise to Antarctica. She plans on recording information, taking many photos, and creating educational opportunities for her students when she returns. She described the upcoming cruise during Mu Chapter's last ZOOM meeting.

Member, **Joyce Farrar Rosemon** continues to create her Therapeutic Teddy Bears. She plans on being a poll worker during the upcoming election.



Mu Chapter President **Carol A Lunsford** is currently busy with Play Practice. A member of the Double Nickels Players (DNP) where all actors are over 55 years of age, she is portraying a "gossipy Garden Club Lady" in the October 18-20, 2024, Dinner Theater Murder Mystery. Keep up with the DNP's happenings on <https://www.facebook.com/ClarksvilleCommunityPlayers>.



She was asked to use her artistic abilities to create two 18x24 paintings using the theme of the play as part of the set.



Carol traveled to Hendersonville, NC to attend the 2024 Pace Society of America Convention. Serving as the family genealogist, she was excited to find a convention of relatives. All attendees were cousins of some type. She is searching for documentation showing Richard Pace of Jamestown, VA history is her 14th gr. Grandfather.



Carol selected Spanish teacher Donna Lopez of Mecklenburg Middle School as her community service project for Mu Chapter this year. Lopez oversees a program assisting the homes and less affluent students.

She also volunteers with the local food bank and a committee which prepares backpacks with food for those students needing food for the weekend.

As a member of the Clarksville Lions Club, she serves on White Cane Day, Heritage Day, and the Chili Cook Off activities. All activities are fund raiser events for scholarships.

Carol also serves as a volunteer at the Clarksville Regional Museum.



Iota News



Iota Chapter has received a grant from our local Electric Membership Cooperation, Tri-Co, in the amount of \$1,500.00. With this money we will purchase backpacks and fill them with essentials for children when they are removed from their home due to emergencies or abuse. The backpacks will be given to our local sheriff, police and fire departments. We consider the essentials to be a stuffed toy, a blanket and toiletries.

Marcelle and Jeff Bridgeman recently returned from an Alaskan cruise and land tour. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 8th. The Alaskan trip was in honor of that occasion. The seven-night cruise north on the inside passage was marvelous. The sights and the food were the best. After departing the ship at Whittier, they took an eight-hour bus trip to Denali National Park for a two-night stay. While at Denali they did a Wilderness Tour inland in the park as far as tourists may go. They were able to see caribou, Dall sheep, bald eagles and ground squirrels. While on the ship they saw whales, sea otters and harbor seals. What a wonderful trip. During the trip they experienced many modes of transportation: car, van, plane, taxi, ship, bus and train.

Elsie Clark is super glad to be home after a little more than three months in the hospital and nursing home. She fell on May 29 and broke her right femur just below the hip. A pin was placed in the bone from hip to knee. She is home now, and Marcelle has moved in with her as her caretaker. Her family gathers every Sunday night for a meal with her. They were able to do that at the nursing home also. She is a much-loved lady.

Noel Williamson enjoyed a bucket list trip, cruise to Alaska in mid June!

Iota's newest member, **Judy Montgomery**, has enjoyed a delightful visit from her granddaughter, Petty Officer, Emily Branscomen, US Navy, stationed at New Orleans.

Beth and David Pettigrew enjoyed a trip to Scotland in May. They also went on a few short trips around Georgia during the summer. Visits to see new grandbaby, Maggie Beth, have been greatly enjoyed. Beth is painting bricks to look like some of her favorite books.

Sandy Fountain has been enjoying a relaxing time at home. Having time to work on hobbies and do some renovations is keeping her busy. Some trips with her youngest daughter to see musicals are in the works. She has been able to help her oldest daughter get ready to relocate to a home much closer.

Jill Rochon enjoyed a trip to the Baltic nations with her son and will also enjoy the trip he has planned for them to Botswana in November.

Simone Brown competed in the Golden Olympics on September 18th-21st in Warner Robbins, Georgia. She won a gold medal in both the football throw and softball throw. She also won a silver medal in the discus throw and a bronze medal in the shot put. She now qualifies to go on to the National Golden Olympics on July 24 - August 4, 2025, in Des Moines, Iowa. Way to go, Simone! We're all cheering for you.

In June **Sherri and Ron Zant** traveled to Tulsa, Oklahoma to celebrate their goddaughter's 21st birthday. They were able to stay at the KAPPA headquarters and loved how beautiful the grounds were with many blooming flowers, the beautifully decorated accommodations and enjoyed looking at all the memorabilia on display. Sherri encourages KAPPA members to plan a stay there. In August and September Ron and Sherri enjoyed an amazing and memorable time on their Alaskan cruise stopping at Sitka, Skagway, Juneau and British Columbia, Canada. They also took their mission church to the Ark Encounter in Kentucky. It's been a busy and exciting time!