



**MESSAGE FROM OUR  
2019-2021 STATE  
PRESIDENT**



**Hello  
New  
Mexico  
Sisters!**

I am sure that you all, like myself, are wondering how we are already in May and at the end of another school year!! This truly has been a semester like no other and I know I am not alone in saying that it will be one that will never be forgotten. Whether you are retired or still in the classroom, you have seen history being made and the world of education rolling with the punches as we always do! None of us are sure what education will look like once the dust settles and our new normal is established, but one thing is definitely certain...teachers will prevail! We just never stop teaching!! It makes our lives concrete!

The decision to cancel our State Convention was one of the toughest decisions I have ever had to make and, at the time, I thought it was too early to decide something that important. It was definitely the right decision, but that does not make it any easier

in my mind. I have been attending State Conventions for many years and am sure that I am not alone in feeling as if something is missing from my life, as I did not get the fellowship that always gives me that second wind at the end of a school year.

Your Officers are meeting this week to lay out some plans for our Fall Meeting that will give us that fellowship time and a chance to honor women from around the state. I am hoping that once we have had our Officers meeting and our Executive Board meeting that we can do a meeting with many of you around the state (all from the safety of our own homes!). Be on the lookout for some more information about that through email from you Chapter Presidents.

I hope that through all of this, that you have been able to view this as a time to reflect on the most important things in your life and to take stock of those that are most important to you. This time of togetherness with family in our homes may just be a blessing in disguise. I hope that this finds each of you safe and HEALTHY! Hugs across the state to each of you!

*Shawna Denney,*  
**Theta State President, 2019-2021**



# MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW!

## THETA STATE FALL EVENT 2020

Saturday, Nov. 7, 2020

7:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.

### Courtyard Marriott Journal Center, ABQ, NM

Program: Executive Board Meeting, Workshops, Chapter Leaders Training, Birthday Luncheon with Awards, Exhibits, and More!

Look for information in the August Theta State News: registration, cost, exhibitor application, program, workshops, and hotel reservations!

## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

I want chapter presidents and chapter editors to review the criteria for the TS Editor's Award so you can start planning what you want to do for next year.

Each Chapter president and its editor can plan what works for the chapter using these criteria. These are all suggestions and **never** intended for chapters to include every item in their newsletters. Chapter needed communication is always a priority.

The award will be presented to chapter and the 2021 Theta State Convention.

### The 5 categories to be scored are:

1. Chapter News
2. Membership News
3. State News
4. International News
5. Newsletter Structure

If you need another copy of the TS Editor's Award Criteria, contact Jeannette Vigil at [leahvigil14@gmail.com](mailto:leahvigil14@gmail.com).

Please send Jeannette the names and contact information for you incoming President and Editor.



## WEBMASTER'S MESSAGE

I have been working on updating the Theta State NM website. You can find information such as committee reports, convention minutes and announcements. Read the newsletters online or print them out to read. The forms that are needed also have been updated with a link to them on the home page. I have tried to link important information on the home page for easier access. If you can't find what you are looking for there, just click on the tabs at the top of the page. If there is ever anything that needs to be added or adjusted, just email the information to me. If you haven't already done so, visit the Theta State NM Website at:

<https://thetastatenmdkg.weebly.com/>.

Connie Holden, [blupanthers@yahoo.com](mailto:blupanthers@yahoo.com)  
TS Webmaster 2019-2021  
3rd Grade Teacher  
Mesa View Elementary School  
Grants, NM

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## WHITE ROSES



Chapter	Join Date	Full Name	City
Alpha Iota	9/1/1974	Jannett B. Oglesby	Albuquerque
Kappa	1/1/1966	Flo Erwin	Alamogordo
Kappa	4/1/1969	Catherine F. Smith	Alamogordo
Omega	4/1/1972	Bonnie Spees Short	Organ
PHI	1/1/1983	Eunice Boetler Schumpert	Portales

# COMMITTEE NEWS

## PROGRAM FOR CHAPTERS NEED NOT SUFFER DURING COVID-19 QUARANTINE

All our members are missing their chapter meetings and their DKG sisters because of the stay-at-home orders and quarantine issues related to the Covid 19 virus,, there are still opportunities to “program” for ourselves and our members. Here are a few ideas, based on our Education Excellence Committees.-

**PROGRAM:** Set up a Zoom chapter meeting (or use another tech platform) that allows members to talk and chat. Send out emails a week before the meeting so members can download the platform and plan the time. This can be a business meeting, a chat among members, or a combination of both. In Gamma chapter, one of my creative members sent everyone a variety of recipes for “Mug Cakes” and ladies were encouraged to make their “refreshments” before the meeting, then we shared our culinary successes.

**PERSONAL GROWTH:** Use this time to take a little more time for yourself. Take walks outside in the beautiful spring weather. Try new recipes, take a nap, plant an herb garden... you get the idea!

**PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS:** If you have retired, reach out to members and teachers you know who are still working from home. Send encouraging notes and positive emails. The switch to virtual teaching has been very time-consuming and labor-intensive for many of our classroom educators. They are exhausted and frustrated, but still doing their best. Remember to reach out to them with your support

**RESEARCH:** Use this time to learn something new, or revisit a skill or hobby you have let go previously. Discover a new author— I recommend one of my fellow Gamma members, Amy Reece, whose *Seeker* series of young adult novels is fun to read!— watch silly YouTube videos, or plan an imaginary trip you want to take as soon as travel is OK again.

**MUSIC:** Dust off those old CDs or records and let yourself listen to music. Let the music move you— dance, roll your shoulders, tap your feet, or simply close your eyes and listen deeply.

## US FORUM/ LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:

This is NOT the time to quit paying attention to the news and important issues. Read the newspaper, watch the news, keep up with DKF’s US Forum publications, and stay in touch with your legislative representatives. Many important political decisions—including elections— are happening in the next few weeks and months, and it’s important to stay updated and vocal.

**AWARDS:** Once a week take a moment to think of someone who has done good things for you and send an email or text— or write a short personal note— thanking them for their important, positive influence on you. If that person has left this world, take a few minutes to meditate on that person’s goodness and send a prayer or positive thought into the universe to honor that individual.

## WORLD FELLOWSHIP/ EMERGENCY FUNDS:

So many people are in need right now. That might include you or some of your chapter members. Remember that it is much easier to give than receive. Don’t forget to give as you can with service, funds, and time. But also be willing to receive. If you are a chapter member who is basically homebound during this pandemic and you need something, don’t be afraid to reach out to a DKG sister and ask- for a quick errand, for a few groceries, for a few minutes of conversation, for a smile. So important, and certainly one of our strengths in DKG!



Remember that of these International Funda  
are still tax deductible.

**THETA STATE CONVENTION  
SITE AD HOC COMMITTEE  
BEING FORMED**

A new ad hoc committee is being appointed by Theta State President Shawna Denney to plan for future Theta State conventions and other meetings. As the number of chapters in New Mexico has fallen, and membership in other chapters is also getting smaller, the state plan for convention sites needs to be revisited and revised.

Members interested in serving on this committee should contact Shawna Denney at [shawnadenney34@gmail.com](mailto:shawnadenney34@gmail.com) to be considered for appointment to this committee. Pat Graff, Theta State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, will chair the committee.

We hope to get representatives from all five regions of the state to get full input.

The committee was to be announced shortly after this year's state convention in Gallup, but work has been postponed for a few months as we all stay home and shelter from the Covid-19 virus. Eventually the group will start meeting during the summer. Virtual meetings, held on computers, are a possibility. Recommendations are slated to be presented at the Theta State Fall Meeting in Albuquerque on Nov. 7, 2020.

*Please consider serving on this important committee.*

**EDUCATOR RECOGNITION AWARD**  
*Has your chapter selected great educators  
to recognize and honor?*

The Educator Recognition Award will be awarded in November at TS Fall Event..

Fill out the TS Fall Event registration form for each recipient (needed for the meal count and any dietary restrictions), bios and photos electronically to Diana Valdez,



[valdez8844@gmail.com](mailto:valdez8844@gmail.com) .

**Please send a check for the two lunches made out to CCC to Diana Valdez PO Box 1071 Corrales, NM 87048.**

Please send Diana notice if your chapter chooses **not** to send any awardees to the Luncheon.



**DKG 2020 INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

The Delta Kappa Gamma International Convention in Philadelphia was officially cancelled Monday, May 19, 2020. Many of us threw out the society were going back and forth with the decision to cancel our own reservation.

More information will be coming out soon regarding reimbursement for convention registration and such. Theta State President Shawna Denney will forward on anything that she receives so that you can get it to your Chapter Members. I think that, regardless of whether they had any intention of attending, it is important that you send that information to them so that they are aware of what is taking place at the International level. Please make sure that you are finding ways to reach out to Chapter members during this time of isolation.

## RED ROSES

**Kelly DeLora**, NBCT and Gamma member, teaches at Moriarty High School where she is the English Department Chair. Since school has been closed in mid-March, Kelly has worked to teach her students through online technology. Inspired by Easter cake mix on sale at a local store, Kelly recently made 150 cupcakes and distributed them to the graduating class of 2020 at MHS when they came for their Cap & Gown pick-up. Way to help these seniors celebrate, Kelly!



**Pat Graff**, NBCT, Theta State's 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president and Gamma chapter's president, was recently selected as a blogger for the National Network of State Teachers of the Year, based in Washington, DC. Graff will write four columns a year as an NNSTOY blogger, and her first column was published in early May. It is titled "Covid-19 Virus Reveals Gross Inequities in Educational Technology." A link to the article is here: <http://www.nnstoy.org/stoyblog/covid-19-virus-reveals-gross-inequities-in-education-technology/>

## CHAPTER NEWS

### ALPHA IOTA CHAPTER

Alpha Iota has not met during the lockdown, but are staying in touch with each other regarding chapter news, life happenings, and possible needs. President Barbara Shirrod makes a point to stay in touch with each member personally. Chapter members are looking forward to getting together as soon as possible! Here are the officers selected for the next biennium:

President:	Barbara Shirrod
1st Vice President:	Karen Carlson
2nd Vice President:	Jane Kight
Treasurer:	Diane Bonnell
Recording Secretary:	Violette Parker
Corresponding Secretary:	Amy Lauer
Parliamentarian:	Ann Calderwood

### GAMMA CHAPTER

March' meeting, a dinner at El Pinto Restaurant in northern Albuquerque, was one of the first casualties of the Covid-19 virus shut-down, as the event was canceled to keep members safe.

The May meeting was held via Zoom video technology, and 18 members attended a fun meeting with a little business and a lot of sharing and laughter! For many of the Gamma members, this was their first experience using Zoom, and most were quite successful.

Congratulations to the new officers for Gamma chapter who will assume their new duties on July 1, 2020, for the next biennium:

President- Katy Hammel, NBCT  
Vice-President- Amy Reece, NBCT  
Recording Secretary- Kelly DeLora, NBCT  
Corresponding Secretary- Mary Fugate  
Treasurer- Diana Valdez  
Newsletter Editor- Jeannette Vigil  
Immediate Past President- Pat Graff, NBCT

In other business, Gamma chapter made donations to DKG International's Emergency Fund and Silver Horizons community service organization.

Fateesha Graff, Gamma member, is a nursing educator at UNM Hospital in Albuquerque. With the advent of the Covid-19 virus, she worked tirelessly at the hospital to plan and conduct important trainings for health care workers on safety procedures for patients and workers. She also works shifts in the hospital as needed.

Jaime Montoya, NBCT and Gamma member, was recently selected to receive the chapter's \$500 scholarship to further her work in the UNM Educational Leadership Administration graduate program. This is a highly prestigious program, and Jaime will use the funds to further her academic work later this year.

Diana Valdez, Gamma treasurer and former Theta State president, and Jeannette Vigil, Gamma and Theta State newsletter editor and past state president, were recently honored with a donation made in their names to Silver Horizons, a community service organization that supports senior citizens in central New Mexico. The donation was made to honor Diana's and Jeannette's on-going service and hard work for Gamma chapter and Delta Kappa Gamma.