



“MU STATE MUSE”



Volume 1, Issue 2

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FALL WORKSHOP MUCH FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

Much fun and fellowship were shared at the Mu State Kappa Fall Workshop that was held on August 24-August 25, 2012 in Columbus, MS at Wingate by Wyndham. Approximately 50 Mu State Kappas gathered together in the “The City That Has It All.” A very special thanks goes to my Beta Chapter sisters along with Chair, Olivia Sansing, Co-Chair, Debbie McLaurin and Registration Chair, Ann Sims for hosting this outstanding event!



Fall Workshop was kicked off with a spectacular bang Friday night with the Mu State Executive Officers, Mu State Standing Committee Chairs, and Mu State Past State Presidents being hosted at Camp David (campground/cabin site) by Olivia and David Sansing with a fabulous fish fry and special entertainment by *The Maskers* of the Mississippi University for Women.

Much brainstorming and work occurred that Friday night by the group in finalizing the objectives for the Mu State Strategic Plan (2012-2017) that was unveiled to the Mu State Kappas on Saturday during the Fall Workshop. As noted in Wikipedia, “*Strategic planning is an organization’s process of defining its strategy, or direction, and making decisions on allocating its resources to pursue this strategy. In order to determine the direction of the organization, it is necessary to understand its current position and the possible avenues through which it can pursue a particular course of action to accomplish its mission.*” During the July retreat in developing the Mu State Strategic Plan, Mu State President, Mitzy Johnson-Mills referenced a quote by Oliver Wendell Holmes in summarizing the actions that Mu State Kappas are taking to create such a momentous plan to guide Mu State for the future, “Greatness is not in where we stand, but in what direction we are moving. We must sail sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it-but sail we must, and not drift, nor lie at anchor.” Now, Mu State Kappas, let’s sail our plan into action (see page 4).



On Saturday morning of our Fall Workshop, our Mu State Kappa sisters were greeted at the entrance of Wingate with smiling faces of our Beta Chapter sisters, (r-l) Ann Sims and Diann Carter. Upon Mu State President, Mitzy Johnson-Mills calling the meeting to order, the “Welcome” was given by Nancy Carpenter, Executive Director of the Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau, with the Presentation of Colors by the Boy Scouts of America – Troop 3 of the Pushmataha Area Council. We were delighted this year to have our Blue Mountain Campus Kappa President, Julia Casey, to be a part of the Fall Workshop activities along with new Gamma

member, Mitzi Cox sharing her talent in singing the National Anthem. Our Past National President, Eudora Kemp, along with sixteen of our Past State Presidents, and eight local presidents were recognized. Mu State Kappas, we are very fortunate of the support and leadership of the past, present, and future exhibited at this statewide event.

One of the highlights of Saturday was our motivational speaker, Vickie Greenway. She brought much laughter and inspiration to the group, reminding us that everyday is Saturday except for Sunday for worship. She challenged us to take time for ourselves to enjoy life, appreciate friendships, and recognize people who have made a difference in our lives (such as a her teacher, Opal Melvin, who is also a Gamma Chapter member:)



“HIGHLIGHTS OF FALL WORKSHOP”(CONTINUED)



Mu State Kappa sisters who are cancer survivors were recognized at Fall Workshop.

Following Vickie’s inspirational message and noting that she is a cancer survivor, Mu State recognized our Kappa sisters (l-r: Nancy Meacham, Jan Eastman, Anita Buster, Ann Sims, Ann Yarbrough, & Eloise Livingston) who are cancer survivors with an Olympic Gold medal, special charm bracelet, and bookmark. Upon this special recognition, each Kappa member in attendance was presented a pink ribbon pin to wear throughout the year in honor of our Mu State Kappa sisters who have championed the battle of cancer and to serve as a reminder of the courage, hope and strength exemplified by these Mu State Kappa sisters. Mu State President, Mitzy Johnson-Mills, encouraged all Mu State Kappa sisters to schedule their annual check-up to include a mammogram, for this year Mu State is not only about professional development but personal development for our Kappa sisters.

Mu State President-Elect, Jerrie Jackson, also announced there will be a Mu State Philanthropic Chapter of the Year Competition again this year with the Kappa Kappa Iota motto “Service to Others” being the theme of the philanthropic competition this year. The local chapter that makes the largest contribution to the American Cancer Society in the name of Kappa will be recognized at the April 27th State Convention in Philadelphia, MS. There are many opportunities to serve such as: Relay for Life, Race for the Cure, and More Birthdays...Kappas can be “Life Savers” by celebrating the lives of people who have battled cancer, remembering loved ones lost, and fighting back against the disease. (Local chapters, remember to log all contributions of your philanthropic activities, hours of service, etc. at your monthly meetings)

Mu State Executive Officers provided informational break-out training sessions for local chapter officers in which:

- Local Chapter Presidents were distributed the Mu State Yearbook and local president’s packet.
- President-Elects received a philanthropic public relations guide.
- Third Vice Presidents/Membership chairs received membership manuals and “Don’t be the missing piece”...of the puzzle membership invitation cards. Mu State Third Vice-President, Katie Draper announced that the local chapter member who recruits the most members by March 2013 will be awarded \$100 and named as the “Top Recruiter of the Year” at State Convention. Also, she announced a Mu State Mentor of the Year will be named, and new members initiated at each local chapter this year need to have a mentor assigned.
- Parliamentarians received simplified parliamentary procedures.
- Second Vice Presidents received tips on creation of local chapter scrapbooks and requested to send in pictures of local chapter activities for the Mu State President’s Scrapbook. Also, Mu State Second Vice President, Karen Lott, announced that there would be a Mu State Kappa “Brag Board” Competition and distributed the competition guidelines and stated 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will be announced at the Mu State Convention. (Local chapters, please take pictures throughout the year and make sure to get those pictures published in your local newspapers.)
- Immediate Past Presidents/local chapter Empathy Chairs were given contact information to make sure to share all local empathy news with Mu State Immediate Past President/State Empathy Chair, Marcy M. Bryant.
- A special thanks goes to Mu State Treasurer, Donna Geno, and Past State Treasurer Ann Sims who assisted the local chapters who were present in filing on-line 990-N e-Postcard with the IRS to maintain tax exempt status as a 501(c) (3) organization.
- All other local chapter members in attendance got to create a “Being a Masterpiece” craft with keynote speaker, Vickie Greenway.



Wanda Nowell, Iota, displaying her “Masterpiece”



Ann Yarbrough and Cindy Todd of Tau fellowshiping



Marcy Bryant (r), Mu State Immediate Past President facilitating Empathy workshop

“HIGHLIGHTS OF FALL WORKSHOP” (CONTINUED)



Mu State Special Project Co-Chairs, (l-r) Moise Jones and Patsy Johnson announced the Mu State Special Project 2012 is a beautiful Kappa Quilt (valued at \$150) which has much history involved. The quilt was designed from a geometry/science project by Patsy Johnson’s students. Part of the quilt’s design includes T-shirts that were distributed at past National Kappa Conventions such as themes as “Sing a Song of Kappa”(our very own Past National President, Eudora Kemp’s theme), Past Mu State President, Imogene Hardon contributed T-shirts to the quilt, and Past Mu State President, Dr. Neola Cleveland, cross stitched beautiful violets on the quilt. Local chapter presidents, you have chances in your yearbook/packet on page 25 that can be copied. Money collected along with completed forms can be mailed to Moise Jones.

(Chances being sold at 1 for \$1 or 6 for \$5.)

Another highlight was when Anita Buster, President of the Past State Presidents announced they would contribute \$200 to the Mu State Scholarships this year to increase the amount awarded to \$500. Many thanks to our Mu State Past State Presidents. Each Kappa member received a *Mu State Roster* booklet with all national, state, and local contact information that included a calendar of events for national, state, and local chapter deadline dates throughout the year. Mu State President, Mitzy Johnson-Mills along with Mu State Treasurer compiled the roster. A standing ovation was given to our Mu State Past State President and founder of Blue Mountain Campus Kappa, Imogene Hardon for paying the printing costs of the roster. The Myerl Langford Incentive Award was awarded to the Gamma Chapter for the most members being present.

Mu State Convention Co-Chairs, Glenda Boler and Cindy Todd announced that Dancing Rabbit Inn in Philadelphia, MS (“Vegas with Sweet Tea”) will be the location for the State Convention with Tau, Upsilon, Alpha Iota hosting the state event on April 26-27, 2013. Door prizes were provided by the Beta Chapter, and all Mu State Kappa sisters gathered in song to sing the “Kappa Pledge,” upon being adjourned by Mu State President, Mitzy J. Mills.



Mu State President, Mitzy Johnson-Mills presents Myerl Langford Incentive Award to Gamma local chapter President, Andrea Barrett.



Banner with State Theme, provided by Cathy Higgins-Past State President.



Our youngest participant was Sarah Cox of Blue Mountain Campus Kappa posing with Eudora Kemp and Mitzy J. Mills.

Mississippi (Mu State) Kappa Leadership



Mu State Executive Officers (l-r): Olivia Sansing, Mitzy Johnson-Mills, Jerrie Jackson, Silvia Thompson, Karen Lott, Katie Draper, Patti Davis, Donna Geno, & Marcy McMillin Bryant.



Mu State Local Chapter Presidents (back row l-r): Tommye Walker-Alpha Delta, Emily Eaton-Iota, Jan Eastman-Sigma, Ann Yarbrough-Tau; (front row l-r): Mu State President, Mitzy J. Mills, Andrea Barrett-Gamma, Diann Carter-Beta, Julia Casey-Blue Mountain Campus Kappa, & Linda Guraedy-Upsilon. (Not pictured: Mary Fowler-Eta, Wanda Hart-Rho, Laura Gary-Alpha Beta, & Carol Cannon-Alpha Iota.)

MU STATE STRATEGIC PLAN

The Mu State Strategic Plan 2012-2017 was unveiled at the Saturday, August 25th Fall workshop to all Mu State Kappas in attendance as follows:

Strategic Goal 1 (Membership): To develop a membership plan to recruit new members, retain current members, and encourage growth of each local chapter

Objective 1 (Recruit): Increase membership by 10% each year for the next five years targeting young teachers

Objective 2 (Retain): Retain current membership at a 90% retention rate each year for the next five years

Objective 3 (Encourage): Contact Campus Kappa graduates and invite them for professional membership into local chapters

Strategic Goal 2 (Communication/Public Relations): To provide a stronger visible presence of Mu State Kappa throughout the state of Mississippi and beyond

Objective 1: Create a local handbook with meetings, members and other pertinent information

Objective 2: Develop social media tools such as a website, listserve, etc. for stronger visibility to enhance communication across the state and beyond

Strategic Goal 3 (Advancement/Enrichment): To offer dynamic personal, professional, and scholastic opportunities

Objective 1: Develop a database of Mu State Kappa professionals in their field to share as potential speakers for local chapters

Objective 2: Develop a list of program ideas to share among local chapters

Objective 3: Implement a mentoring program for Campus Kappas as well as for local chapters

Objective 4: Provide opportunities and increase advertisement regarding local chapter mini-scholarships, state, and national scholarships

Objective 5: Provide more emphasis on personal growth for all stages at all ages

Strategic Goal 4 (Service): To offer service and opportunities in civic, humane, and educational projects throughout the communities and state

Objective 1: Reach out to other organizations such as Girl Scouts, Beta, for service resource projects such as babysitting and transportation to assist young Mu State Kappa members and senior members.

Objective 2: Be more visible as Kappa in community events such as Relay for Life, American Heart Association, etc.

Objective 3: Encourage local chapters to implement local service projects in schools and other entities within the community

THANK YOU



A Very Special Thanks goes to the Beta Chapter for hosting the Mu State Fall Workshop: (l-r) Debbie McLaurin, Olivia Sansing, Mitzy Johnson-Mills, Priscilla Waits, Charlene Perry, Daphne Gordon, Ann Sims & Diann Carter.



Calendar of Events

- *October 2012:* Local Membership Recruitment Month; “Make a Difference Day”-October 27, 2012
See <http://makeadifferenceday.com>
- *December 2012:* Local chapters celebrate the founding of Kappa Kappa Iota on Dec.6th or close to that date (Hold a “Merry Member Holiday Party”)
- *January 25, 2013:* Past Mu State Presidents or Mu State Standing Committee Chairs who are interested in serving on a National Committee for 2013-2014, please contact Mu State President, Mitzy J. Mills at mitzyjohnsonms@gmail.com or 662-728-2619
- *February 23, 2013:* Mu State Executive Committee Spring Meeting, Harvey’s Tupelo, MS (begins at 10:30 a.m.); Mu State Nominating Committee to report a slate of proposed nominees for 2013-2014 Mu State Officers and finalize plans and reports for Mu State Convention (Mu State Officers, Mu State Standing Chairs, and Past State Presidents to attend)

FROM THE PRESIDENT’S PEN:



I am so very honored and humbled to serve each of you this year as your 2012-2013 Mu State President. Many exciting things have occurred this year for Mu State and we are just in the month of October. I must say that our state theme of “Live, Love, Laugh for Kappa-Everlasting Friendships” was achieved at our recent Mu State Fall Workshop. Much life, love and laughter was felt and shared throughout that weekend among our Mu State Kappa sisters. A true sisterhood we have among us indeed. A very special thank you is expressed to my Beta Chapter sisters for hosting the event. As Mu State has developed a Strategic Plan, I challenge each local chapter to assist our state organization in working towards the objectives this year for each strategic goal. As I announced at Fall Workshop, I would love the opportunity to perform your local chapter initiation of your new members. Mu State Kappas, I am excited to announce that I have already performed initiation ceremonies for new members for our Gamma Chapter and Beta Chapter, and in the upcoming November month, I will be initiating new members for Iota, Alpha Delta, and Alpha Beta chapters. Our Mentoring program is also off to a great start for each new member has been assigned a seasoned with much wisdom Kappa sister. Oh, my Mu State Kappa sisters, this is just WONDERFUL!!! Let’s all applaud these local chapters on their efforts in membership recruitment for we have three objectives (recruit, retain, and encourage) in our strategic plan. I look forward to hearing from other chapters to assist with your membership initiations.

We have had much Empathy News shared in the recent months via email, and if you have not been receiving the emails, please let me know by contacting me at mitzyjohnsonms@gmail.com or call 662-728-2619. Several of our Mu State Kappa sisters have experienced losses, health issues, or celebrations. We want all of you to know that we are thinking of you during this time and we extend our Kappa love to each of you. *A very special thanks goes to our Mu State Second Vice President, Karen Lott for the wonderful job in taking pictures at our Mu State Fall Workshop...Hope you enjoyed the captions throughout this newsletter.*