



“MU STATE MUSE”



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-FALL WORKSHOP- MANY SMILES SHARED



Many smiles and hugs were shared at the Mu State Kappa Fall Workshop that was held on August 26-August 27, 2022 in Louisville, MS at Lake Tiak O'Khata. Approximately 30 Mu State Kappas gathered together for the first "in-person" fall workshop in two years to "Shine a Smile for Kappa!" A very special thanks goes to my Beta Chapter sisters along with Chair-Olivia Sansing, Registration Chair-Diann Carter, and Debbie McLaurin for hosting this outstanding event!



Mu State Kappas were greeted at the entrance of Honey-suckle Convention Hall with the smiling face of our Beta Chapter Registration Chair-Diann Carter. Upon Mu State President, Dr. Mitzy Johnson-Mills calling the meeting to order, the "Welcome" was given by Carmen White, owner of Lake Tiak O'Khata. Carmen welcomed the members and thanked Mu State for the years that they had met at Lake Tiak O'Khata. She gave a brief history of the resort. Beta Chapter President, Olivia Sansing gave the response and presented Carmen with a McCarty sea shell bowl as a gift from Mu State. Mu State President-Elect Donna Geno gave a very moving devotion "Three Letters from Teddy," which

is an excellent example of how the human spirit triumphs over obstacles, and how one caring person can make the difference between success and failure. It touched the hearts of members present judging by the tears shared by the end of the devotion. Gamma member Margaret Ann Sanders, and President Mitzy Johnson-Mills shared their talents in singing a duet of "America the Beautiful." They were accompanied on piano by Patsy Johnson, Gamma member. Thirteen Past State Presidents and all six Local Chapter Presidents or a representative were recognized. It was so exciting to see members from all local chapters present and two past members to be reinstated as Members at Large at our Fall Workshop.

One of the highlights of Fall Workshop was keynote speaker, Lynette McDougald, award-winning manager of The University Florist from Mississippi State University. She shared entertaining tips on floral design by creating three different floral arrangements showing how to use the lines of design and describing the flowers used in the beautiful creations. The three floral designs became silent auction items as a fundraiser for the Mu State operating budget which raised \$200. Highest bidders/winners were Cathy Higgins, (Gamma), Olivia Sansing (Beta), and Karen Lott (Gamma). Thanks to all who participated in the auction and congratulations to the winners!



Following the keynote, Local Chapter Presidents participated in a leadership training workshop led by President Mitzy Johnson-Mills while the rest of the membership participated in the "Kappa Art in Bloom" mini-workshop creating their own floral design led by keynote speaker, Lynette McDougald. (May I add that Beth Bryd (Gamma) has texted me some of her beautiful floral creations since the workshop and she has mastered the art.:)

FALL WORKSHOP (CONTINUED)



Mu State President-Elect, Donna Geno announced the **Mu State Philanthropic Project** will be "**Shine a Kappa Smile to Save Hunger!**" She shared that 1 in 4 Mississippians (about 600,840 people) don't have enough to eat, more than 1 in 4 children in MS (24.4%) go to bed hungry most every night, and more than half of Mississippi's seniors (56%) experience regular shortage in food. Local chapters were asked to do community outreach projects such as food bank drives/local church backpack ministry to help with hunger in their communities. She also reminded local chapters to log all contributions of philanthropic activities, hours of service, etc. at monthly meetings on the philanthropic form that Local Chapter Presidents have received.

Mu State Executive Officers provided informational committee reports as follows:

- **Membership:** The following **membership incentives** were announced by Mu State President Mitzy J. Mills standing in for Mu State First Vice President, Emily Eaton, and will be awarded at State Convention on April 29, 2023:
 - **Mu State Magnolia Membership Award** will be presented to each 2022-2023 local chapter member who recruits at least one (new or reinstated) member for the 2022-2023 Kappa Year (September 2022-March 2023). A form was disseminated to all members present and Local Chapter Presidents received a copy to disseminate at the local chapter meeting. Completed forms must be mailed to Mitzy Johnson-Mills, Mu State President by March 1, 2023. (Please note if a new member or reinstated member was recruited in May and paid dues starting 2022-2023, these new or reinstated members can be included.)
 - **Mu State Mentor of the Year Award** will be a local chapter member who exemplifies the qualities of the "Outstanding Mentor." A form was disseminated to all members present and Local Chapter Presidents received a copy to disseminate at the local chapter meeting. Completed form must be mailed to Mitzy Johnson-Mills, Mu State President by March 1, 2023.
 - **Mu State Top Recruiter of the Year Award** will be given to a 2022-2023 local chapter member who recruits the most members. A personal contribution of \$100 by your Mu State President is being given to that one local chapter member who makes Mu State shine. A form was disseminated to all members present and Local Chapter Presidents received a copy to disseminate at the local chapter meeting. Completed form must be mailed to Mitzy Johnson-Mills, Mu State President by March 1, 2023.
- **History:** Second Vice President, Wanda Nowell, announced the 2022-2023 Kappa Story Board Contest. She requested that each local chapter tell their story through pictures and newspaper articles that have occurred during 2022-2023. She provided each chapter with a tri-fold display board and disseminated the guidelines. She reminded members to use double stick tape so that she can use the pictures for the State President's scrapbook. The local chapter story boards will be displayed and judged at the Mu State Convention on April 29, 2023. The chapter who captures their 2022-2023 local chapter activities the best will be recipient of \$100 (compliments from your Mu State President).
- **Empathy:** Immediate Past President, Marcy M. Bryant, encouraged members to please send messages of empathy to her so that she or our Mu State President can communicate to the membership.
- **Scholarship:** Chair Tommye Jane Walker referred members to the National Kappa Kappa Iota website for complete information on Kappa's national scholarships. She encouraged members to apply for state scholarships using the same application from the website.
- **Professional/Personal Development:** Mitzy Johnson-Mills reported for Chair Andrea Barrett in her absence. She shared that we as Kappas need to grow professionally but also personally this year. From the after-effects of the pandemic, personal development has become such a great focus for us all. Local Chapter Presidents have the Professional/Personal Development form to be completed by each member and is to be reported at the State Convention and submitted to National.
- **Finance/Treasurer Report:** Mu State Treasurer, Jan Eastman shared on behalf of First Vice President Emily Eaton's absence overall summary of the finances along with proposed budget. The income since April 2022 State Convention was \$5,519 while expenses during the same time frame were \$5,736.60. She anticipates income of \$460 and Member at Large dues of \$40 for an additional \$500 membership income. To ensure a balance budget for 2022-2023, Beta waived their \$75 budgeted for Fall Workshop decorations and Mu State President Mitzy Johnson-Mills waived the \$600 allocated for Fall National Executive Board meeting in Tulsa, OK. She will cover it personally. Silent auction items brought to State Convention could assist with a balanced budget. Jan encouraged each local chapter to bring two silent auction items to the 2023 Mu State Convention but the key is to recruit new members.
- **Special Projects:** Chair Moise Jones encouraged members to buy as many tickets as possible for the McCarty Christening Bowl. Completed ticket forms can be mailed to Moise or brought to State Convention. She reported that \$304 has been collected thus far. Drawing will occur at State Convention.
- **Bylaws:** Mu State Parliamentarian, Olivia Sansing, distributed proposed changes to the Mu State Bylaws and Mu State Standing Rules to be voted on at the Mu State Convention on April 29, 2023.
 Rationale: At the 2022 National Convention, the body approved that "Campus Kappa" should now be referenced as "Campus/Collegiate Kappa." The rationale is to continue to recruit the traditional on-campus students and to expand recruitment to non-traditional and distance learning (virtual) students.

FALL WORKSHOP (CONTINUED)

Unfinished Business: Mu State President Mitzy Johnson-Mills shared that Theta State (Alabama) will be hosting the National Convention in 2024 in Montgomery, AL. Alabama has approximately 55 members and they have asked for Mu State to help. The incoming National President will be Kathy Smith of AL and she had mentioned to Marcy Bryant last year when Marcy was our Mu State President. Mu State membership had discussed interest to assist during last year's Fall workshop. Mu State Parliamentarian, Olivia Sansing, brought the Executive Committee official motion to the Mu State membership to serve as a Co-Hosting State for the 2024 National Convention. Mu State's role will be to host the National Convention Luncheon. The membership voted on the motion and it was approved. Mitzy Johnson-Mills and Marcy Bryant agreed to serve as Co-Chairs. A planning committee from the Mu State membership will need to be established upon the conclusion of the April 2023 Mu State Convention. If you are interested in serving on the planning committee, please email Mitzy Johnson-Mills at mitzyjohnsonms@gmail.com or Marcy M. Bryant at marcy@dixie-net.com

Mu State President, Mitzy Johnson-Mills made the following announcements:

- Myerl Langford Incentive Award was awarded to Gamma for the most members present.
- Mu State Executive Committee meeting (including State Chairs and Local Chapter Presidents) will be held at Little Blackland Church in Booneville, MS on Saturday, February 18th, starting at 10:30 am and conclude by 1:30 pm.
- 2022-2023 Mu State Nominating Committee members are Marcy Bryant (Chair), Gale Taylor (Eta), and Kathy Shapple (Alpha Delta). They are to present proposed slate of officers at the February 18th, 2023 Mu State Executive Committee meeting.
- Mu State Convention will be held on April 28-29, 2023 in Corinth, MS. Eta and Gamma Chapters are hosting the state event.

Door prizes were provided by the Beta Chapter. All Mu State Kappa sisters gathered in song to sing the "Kappa Pledge," led by Music Committee Chair, Anita Buster, upon being adjourned by Mu State President, Mitzy J. Mills.



Mu State President, Mitzy Johnson-Mills congratulates Gamma members on being awarded Myerl Langford Incentive Award at Fall Workshop.

Mississippi (Mu State) Kappa Leadership



Mu State Executive Officers (l-r): Jan Eastman, Olivia Sansing, Donna Geno, Mitzy J. Mills, Debbie McLaurin (standing in for Madeline Smith), Wanda Nowell, & Marcy M. Bryant



Mu State Local Chapter Presidents (l-r): Carol Smith (Iota), Pat Donald (Rho), Olivia Sansing (Beta), Kathy Shapple (standing in for Anne Cross-Alpha Delta), Dale Ables (Eta), and Beth Byrd (standing in for Janis Burns-Gamma).

MU STATE KAPPAS MAKING A DIFFERENCE! (SHINING A KAPPA SMILE TO SAVE HUNGER!)



(L-R) Beta Chapter President and Past Mu State President (MS), Olivia Sansing presented to Nikki Austin, Activities Director of Trinity Nursing Home in Columbus, MS, items that the Beta Chapter members collected for the residents. The items ranged from paper towels, hand soap, to snacks, etc. Nikki shared that some of these items were used for the Bingo parties too.



Mu State (MS) Kappa Philanthropic Project is "Shine a Kappa Smile to Save Hunger!" The chapters throughout the state are focusing on helping their local communities on the issue of hunger. Rho Chapter members in Brookhaven, MS collected items to donate to the local Episcopal Church Food Pantry.



The Iota Chapter in Ripley, MS, collected snack food items for the Blue Mountain College student teachers and distributed the Kappa Snack Sacks to them at the beginning of the fall semester. Iota members and Past Mu State Presidents, Jerrie Jackson, Wanda Nowell, and Imogene Hardon (l-r), are shown assisting in the preparation of the snack sacks.



Mu State (MS) Kappa Philanthropic Project continues to "Shine a Kappa Smile to Save Hunger!" Gamma Chapter members in Booneville, MS collected canned food items and donated to the Booneville Middle School Food Pantry and Jumpertown School student organization, Students Taking Active Responsibility (STAR). For children in need, the food pantry provides weekend meals and the students in STAR collected canned goods for Thanksgiving to ensure those children have a Healthy and Happy Thanksgiving.



Iota Chapter Member and Past Mu State President, Imogene Hardon was surprised with a birthday celebration including a cake by her chapter members. Imogene is 99 years young. She has been a member of Kappa for 50 years and a charter member of her local chapter. She served as the 1983-1984 Mu State President and was instrumental in establishing the Blue Mountain College Campus Kappas in 1993 and served as the chapter's first faculty advisor. Many of you will recall that when Imogene saw Kappa sisters at numerous State and National Conventions she attended, she would hug and smile and say, "Love you Precious!" Imogene is a true Southern Lady and we thank her for her many years of service and love to Kappa.