



“MU STATE MUSE”



Volume 12, Issue 2
2023-2024

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CALL TO MU STATE CONVENTION

This is your official call to Mu State Kappa State Convention to be held on April 26-27, 2024, in Brookhaven, MS, hosted by Rho Chapter.

Please join us as we don our pearls, share some “Pearls of Wisdom,” and “Sea the Treasures of Life” at an old-fashioned English Afternoon Tea as the Pre-Convention event. A program will be presented by a local tea farm, The Great Mississippi Tea Company, complete with a sampling of their award-winning teas.

Pre-Convention Event

Friday, April 26, 2024

5:00 p.m.

Cannon Hall

Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

230 W. Monticello St.

Brookhaven, MS



For this festive occasion, just come as you are. If you have pearls, please wear them – real, cultured, or faux. We will enjoy a few treats with our tea, but, most importantly, “treasure” our social hour with our Kappa sisters.

After our Tea Party, Mu State Kappas will remain at Cannon Hall for the Friday night Dinner/Welcome Reception, beginning at 6:30 pm. Following the dinner, the Mu State Executive Committee including State Chairs will meet at the same location.

The Thames Center

Copiah-Lincoln Community College

1028 J.C. Redd Drive

Wesson, MS 39191



The Saturday Mu State Convention will be held in The Thames Center, located on the campus of Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Wesson, Mississippi, about ten miles north of Brookhaven.

CALL TO MU STATE CONVENTION (CONTINUED)



For Saturday, April 27th, the Mu State Convention will be held at Copiah-Lincoln Community College at the The Thames Center (Address is 1028 J.C. Redd Drive) with registration beginning at 9:30 am and the actual convention starting at 10 am.

The **keynote speaker** will be **National Kappa Kappa Iota President, Kathy Smith** whose national theme is Kappas "sea" the beauty in life.

Our Mu State Kappas will honor our Kappa sisters in our Celebration of Life service for those who have joined our Omega Chapter. Several awards will be given out to include: Eudora Kemp Chapter of the Year, Mu State Magnolia Membership Awards, Top Recruiter of the Year, Mentor of the Year, Mu State Story Board Chapter Winner (Local chapters...share your story of the great things happening this year), election of the 2024-2025 Mu State Officers along with the election of the 2024-2025 Mu State Nominating Committee and delegates to attend the National Convention in Montgomery, AL. The finale of the State Convention will be the Installation Ceremony of our newly elected 2024-2025 Mu State Officers.

So in summary, the agenda is as follows:

Friday, April 26, 2024:

Location: Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 230 W. Monticello St. Brookhaven, (Cannon Hall)

- 5:00 p.m. Pre-Convention English Afternoon Tea with local tea farm, "The Great Mississippi Tea Company," presenting a program complete with a sampling of their award-winning tea
- 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. "Dinner/Welcome Reception"
- 7:45 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Mu State Executive Committee Meeting (includes Mu State Officers & State Committee Chairs)

Saturday, April 27, 2024:

Location: Co-Lin Community College-The Thames Center, 1028 J. C. Redd Drive, Wesson, MS

- 9:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Registration and refreshments (Bring Local Chapter Story Board and 2 silent auction items per chapter)
Local Chapters-turn in completed Eudora Kemp Chapter of the Year Form (pg.52 of the 2023-2024 Mu State Local Chapter President's Handbook) to Sylvia Campbell and Sondra Dunn at the Registration Table
- 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Mu State Convention

Registration form is enclosed on last page of this newsletter and is requested to be completed and mailed to Sylvia Campbell, Registration Chair, along with \$30 registration fee by Friday, April 12th. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR BEING PROACTIVE TO REGISTER to assist in planning of meals and hand-outs.

HOTEL: Please reserve your hotel room at Holiday Inn Express-Brookhaven (601-990-2360) no later than Monday, April 8, 2024. (Cancellations may be made by April 19 to avoid fee of one night's charge.) Address is 1212 Brookway Blvd., Brookhaven, MS. To receive a group rate of \$124 (plus tax) which is a total of \$135.16, you will need to state Kappa Kappa Iota as your reservation code when making a hotel reservation. Guests receive a hot breakfast.

SPRING 2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/COUNCIL MEETING



On February 17, 2024, approximately 14 Mu State Kappa sisters, representing your Mu State Officers, Past State Presidents, Standing Committee Chairs, and Local Chapter Presidents met in Booneville, MS at the Little Blackland Church (venue owned by Patsy Johnson & Mitzy Johnson-Mills) for the Spring Executive Committee/Council meeting. Plans were discussed for the upcoming State Convention, progress reports from each committee, and local chapter reports. Also, details on Mu State hosting the luncheon at the 2024 National Kappa Convention including table decorations and favors were finalized. Dr. Mitzy Johnson-Mills provided a summary of updates recommended by Mu State Kappas on the Mu State Strategic Plan from the Stop-Stress-Start activity held during the Fall Workshop. Those updates were discussed and edited. The proposed Mu State Strategic Plan for 2024-2029 is on page 4 within this newsletter. It is to be voted upon for your approval at State Convention.

Delicious soups, sandwiches, and dessert charcuterie boards were enjoyed by all. Special Projects Chair, Karen Lott, reported that \$340 has been raised thus far on our State Special Project, a McCarty Pottery Nutmeg Clam Shell bowl. Local Chapter Presidents, please be reminded to collect chances/payment during your meetings (pg. 54 in the 2023-2024 Mu State Local Chapter President's Handbook) and turn in at State Convention to Karen Lott for the drawing is to occur at State Convention.

The Nominating Committee (Katie Draper-Chair, Kay Crow, and Katherine Bumgarner) proposed the following candidates for the 2024-2025 Mu State Officers:

President: Beth Byrd (Gamma)
 President-Elect: Debbie McLaurin (Beta)
 First Vice President: Emily Eaton (Iota)
 Second Vice President: Dale Ables (Eta)
 Recording Secretary: Laura Livingston (Rho)
 Treasurer: Jan Eastman (Alpha Delta)
 Parliamentarian: Mitzy Johnson-Mills (Beta)
 Immediate Past President: Donna Geno (Gamma)

As the Mu State Bylaws state in Article VII-Elections, Section 1-Nomination, Mu State President in a newsletter is to be announced the proposed candidates to local chapter presidents so members will be informed prior to State Convention. Nominations may be made from the floor of the State Convention, provided consent of the nominee is provided. Many thanks to the Nominating Committee for their hard work and to the proposed candidates agreeing to be brought forth to the body at State Convention to serve in a state leadership role.

SPRING 2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/COUNCIL MEETING
(CONTINUED)

**PROPOSED
2024-2029
Mu State Strategic Plan**

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: Increase membership by 5% over the prior year for the next five years targeting all professional educational personnel

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

Objective 3: Contact Campus/Collegiate Kappa graduates and invite them for professional membership into local chapters

Objective 4: Reach out to Career Coaches in local schools to encourage membership and promote Kappa

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: Develop, maintain, and use social media tools for stronger visibility to enhance communication across the local chapters, state and beyond

Objective 2: Provide visibility of Mu State Kappa in local chapters' communities through printed media such as ads in local sports, events, or sponsorships

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

Objective 1: Update and maintain a list of program ideas to share among local chapters

Objective 2: Implement a mentoring program for Campus/Collegiate Kappas as well as for local chapters with a State Mentor of the Year being recognized annually

Objective 3: Increase publicity and direct contact regarding local chapter, state, and national scholarships

Objective 4: Provide more emphasis on personal growth and/or professional development among chapters

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 middle and high schools for service hours 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, Teacher Appreciation, etc.

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

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE 2023-2024 MU STATE YEAR

Mu State Local Chapters have been busy this year through their monthly meetings and supporting the different philanthropic projects/programs. Highlights are shared below:



Rho Chapter-Partnered with Bogue Chitto Beta Club for a food drive for the Episcopal Church food pantry



Iota Chapter-Snack boxes delivered monthly to three schools for the teachers' lounge



Beta Chapter-Colleen Meek shared program on the Educational System of South Africa



Eta Chapter-Amen Food Pantry (L-R): Mary Fowler, Bonnie Dalton, Gale Taylor, Teresa Smillie, Katie Draper, Anita Mills, Dale Ables, Jan Payne, and Debbie Page



Gamma Chapter-Food Drive (L-R): Donna Geno, Teresa Green, Moise Jones, Lana Harrelson, Patsy Johnson, Eleshia Jumper, Beth Byrd, Andrea Barrett, Cathy Higgins, Margaret Sanders, and Reba DePoyster



Alpha Delta Chapter-Good Smartian Food Drive (L-R): Beverly Moffitt, Kathy Shappley, Mary Linville, Anne Cross, Tommye Walker, and Sandra Ford



"SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES"

National scholarships were established to help deserving teachers have additional opportunities for personal and professional growth. Mu State Members, this is a great opportunity for you. Please take advantage of one of the many great things about Kappa. The National Scholarships available are as follows:

- **Mable Caldwell Scholarship** (\$1000-\$2000)
- **Iva Duggan Scholarship** (\$500)
- **Jean Terrell Scholarship** (\$500-\$2000)
- **General Scholarship** (\$500)

The above scholarships are established not only to help deserving teachers have additional opportunities for personal and professional growth but to honor persons who have made outstanding contributions to the development and extension of Kappa Kappa Iota.

- **Ruth Foster McClain Scholarship...** established to help deserving educators pursuing professional growth in a doctoral program. (**Admittance to a PhD program is required to be eligible for the Ruth Foster McClain Scholarship.**) (\$1000-\$2000)
- **Retired Educator Grant...** established to help deserving retired educators have additional opportunities for personal and professional growth and to honor members who have made outstanding contributions to the development and extension of Kappa Kappa Iota. (\$200-\$1000)
- **Scholarship Funded by Past State Presidents...** established to aid in furthering educational goals of an active member of Kappa Kappa Iota. (\$600-\$1800)
- **Sara Sunderman Campus Kappa Scholarship...** established by the Past State Presidents of Kappa Kappa Iota to help deserving active Campus Kappas to have additional opportunities for furthering their personal and professional growth. (\$1000-\$2000)
- **Educational Grant...** established to assist non-member educators in pursuit of professional and personal growth. (\$500-\$1000)

(Source: The range of the national scholarship amounts was provided by National Headquarters based upon the 2008-2023 National Scholarship & Grant Recipients and will be based upon monies available each year.)

For an application and additional information, please see your local chapter president.

An electronic version of the application is available at www.nationalkappakappaiota.org. (Click on the National Scholarship tab on the left, then click on the 2023-2024 National Scholarship Application **OR** 2023-2024 Educational Grant Application at the bottom of the webpage). Please note that all National Scholarship applications must be signed **in blue ink** by the applicant, Local President, State Scholarship Chair and State President, so please bring your National Scholarship Application to Mu State Convention in Brookhaven on April 27th.

- **Mu State Scholarships: (Use the same electronic application from National website)**
 - Christine Reeves/Nannie Whitten Scholarship...** this scholarship was established to aid in furthering educational goals of an active member within MU State (\$300). It was named in honor of Mu State founder Christine Reeves and Mu State's first National President, Nannie Whitten.
 - Imogene Hardon Scholarship (Campus Kappa)...** this scholarship was established to aid in furthering educational goals of a deserving Campus Kappa (\$300). It was named in honor of Imogene Hardon, Mu State Past President for her efforts in establishing the Blue Mountain Campus Kappa.

The completed State Scholarship application should be mailed to State Scholarship Chair, Kay Crow, 904 Hwy 4 East, Booneville, MS 38829 postmarked no later than April 1, 2024. If you should have questions about the application, please contact Kay at 662-416-5084 or email her at kaydcrow@gmail.com



Local Chapter Reminders

(Page references included from the 2023-2024 Mu State Local President's Handbook given out at Fall Workshop or mailed to local chapter presidents)

- Submit/mail yearly Philanthropic Report to Chair, Beth Byrd
90 CR 1250, Booneville, MS 38829 by April 1 (pg. 18) or
Email: bbyrd@nemcc.edu
- Submit/mail Membership Report to Donna Geno
384 CR 7100
Booneville, MS 33829 by April 1st or
Email: dgeno1972@gmail.com
(Hand-outs provided at Fall Workshop for Top Recruiter, Mentor of the Year, and also submit names of local members who recruited at least one or more new members)
If you need forms, please email Donna at dgeno1972@gmail.com
- Submit/mail yearly Empathy Report to Chair, Mitzy Johnson-Mills
P.O. Box 2086
Mississippi State, MS 39762 by April 1 (pg. 23) or
Email: mitzyjohnsonms@gmail.com
- Submit/mail names of deceased members to Chair, Wanda Nowell
3631 CR 201
Walnut, MS 38683-9524 by April 1 (pg. 24)
- Submit/mail yearly Professional/Personal Report to Chair, Gale Taylor
2104 Downing Street
Corinth, MS 38834 by April 1 (pg.20) or
Email: gale_the_chef@yahoo.com
- Submit/mail signed Mu State Scholarship Applications to Chair, Kay Crow
904 Hwy 4 East
Booneville, MS 38829 by April 1
Email: kaydcrow@gmail.com
Application available online on the national kappa website:
<https://nationalkappakappaiota.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2023-2024-Scholarship-App-For-Members.pdf>



State Convention 2024 Registration Form

(Please Print)



Name _____

Phone (____) _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Local Chapter _____

Check All That Apply:

Mu State Executive Committee _____

Past State President _____ Year Served _____

Mu State Standing Committee Chair _____

Local Chapter President _____

Local Chapter Member _____

Campus Kappa Officer _____

(Registration being paid by other Mu State members)

First Time Member Attendee _____

Please check all the events below that you plan to participate:

_____ Pre-Convention English Afternoon Tea

_____ Friday night "Dinner/Welcome Reception"

_____ Saturday State Convention (includes continental breakfast & lunch)

In order to assist the Chef with planning for the buffet-style lunch on Saturday, please check your preference as to which entrée you prefer:

_____ Shrimp OR _____ Chicken

This is to assist the local planning committee on meal planning and seating arrangements.

State Convention Registration (flat fee): \$30

TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE ENCLOSED \$ _____

Mail completed registration form and payment promptly by Friday, April 12, 2024

Make checks payable to Rho, Send check and completed registration form to:
Sylvia Campbell, 2139 Campbell Lane NW, Brookhaven, MS 39601

Questions? Contact Donna Geno via e-mail at dgeno1972@gmail.com or cell (662-720-0661)