



“MU STATE MUSE”



Volume 13, Issue 2

2024-2025

Mu State Executive Committee

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•Second Vice President:

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•Recording Secretary:

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lnwgary@gmail.com

•Treasurer:

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•Immediate Past President:

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•Parliamentarian:

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CALL TO MU STATE CONVENTION

This is your official call to Mu State Kappa Kappa Iota State Convention to be held on April 25-26, 2025. The Friday night meeting will be held in New Albany, MS, and the Saturday convention will be held in Ripley, MS. Members of the Alpha Delta chapter are busy preparing to help Mu State Kappas continue to “Light the Way!” A very special thanks goes to Convention Chair Anne Cross and Registration Chair Madelyn Ward and Co-Chairs, Tommy Jane Walker and Kathy Shappley for all the preplanning. Please make plans to join in the fun!

For this year’s State Convention, a Friday evening Welcome Program and Dinner will be held at 6 p.m. at the **Union County Heritage Museum**
Address: 114 Cleveland St., New Albany, MS 38652



For over 20 years, the Union County Heritage Museum in New Albany, MS, has been educating, informing, and entertaining people from all ages, origins, and walks of life through intriguing, engaging works of history. The museum welcomes visitors to take a journey into new horizons of learning and imagination in the heart of the hills of Mississippi.

Mu State Kappa members will enjoy a meal at 6 p.m. at the museum. A brief program will be presented and members will be able to enjoy touring the outside garden. Following the meal, the Mu State Executive Committee including State Chairs will meet at the museum.



2025 State Convention Planning Meeting



CALL TO MU STATE CONVENTION (CONTINUED)



For Saturday, April 26th, the Mu State Convention will be held at the Ripley First Baptist Church (Address is 202 E. Pine St., Ripley, MS 38610) with registration beginning at 9:30 am and the actual convention starting at 10 am. The **keynote speaker** will be **Mr. Tim Needham** who will share with us tips and strategies to keep our home and yards beautified with blooming plants and shrubs. Members will be able to take home a potted plant to lighten their home and daily life. 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 2025-2026 Mu State Officers along with the election of the 2025-2026 Mu State Nominating Committee and delegates to attend the National Convention in Chattanooga, TN. The finale of the State Convention will be the Installation Ceremony of our newly elected 2025-2026 Mu State Officers.

So in summary, the schedule is as follows:

- Friday, April 25, 2025:

- 6 p.m. “Dinner/Welcome Program” at Union County Heritage Museum (114 Cleveland St., New Albany, MS 38652)
- Following the Dinner (appr 7:30 p.m.): Mu State Executive Committee Meeting (includes Mu State Officers & State Committee Chairs) at Museum (same location)

- Saturday, April 26, 2025:

- 9:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast—Ripley First Baptist Church (202 East Pine St., Ripley, MS 38663)
(Bring Local Chapter Story Board and 2 silent auction items per chapter)
Local Chapters: Turn in completed Eudora Kemp Chapter of the Year form to Madelyn Ward at the Registration Table (pg. 33 of the 2024-2025 Mu State Handbook)
- 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Mu State Convention

Registration form is enclosed on the last page of this newsletter and is requested to be completed and mailed to Madelyn Ward, Registration Chair, along with \$40 registration fee by Friday, April 11th. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR BEING PROACTIVE TO REGISTER to assist in planning of meals and hand-outs.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Please reserve your hotel room at Hampton Inn-New Albany (662-534-7722) no later than Friday, April 11th. Address is 320 Coulter Cove, New Albany, MS. King room rate is \$124 (plus tax) and Queen Room (2 beds) is \$129 (plus tax). A hot breakfast is included with stay.

SPRING 2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/COUNCIL MEETING



Additional Highlights from the Spring 2025 Meeting



Immediate Past Mu State President, Donna Geno, was presented with a Scrapbook containing photos and memorabilia from her term as Mu State President for the 2023-2024 year. The scrapbook was presented by Dale Ables, Second Vice Pres.

On February 15, 2025, approximately 12 Mu State Kappa sisters, representing your Mu State Officers, Past State Presidents, Standing Committee Chairs, and Local Chapter Presidents met in Louisville, MS at Lake Tiak-O'Khata for the Spring Executive Committee/Council meeting. Plans were discussed for the upcoming State Convention, progress reports from each committee, and local chapter reports (great things happening throughout our state) were shared. Attendees enjoyed the buffet lunch at the restaurant. Special Projects Co-Chair Karen Lott reported that money has already been raised for our State Special Project, a McCarty platter. Local Chapter Presidents, please be reminded to collect chances/payment during your meetings (pg. 35 in the 2024-2025 Mu State Handbook) and turn in at State Convention to Karen Lott at the Special Projects table for the drawing that will occur at State Convention.

The Nominating Committee (Tommye Jane Walker-Chair, Diann Carter, and Jerrie Jackson) proposed the following candidates for the 2025-2026 Mu State Officers:

President: Beth Byrd (Gamma)
 President-Elect: Emily Eaton (Iota)
 First Vice President: Pegan Carter (Beta)
 Second Vice President: Jackie Martin (Rho)
 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 announce 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.



McCarty Platter that will be given away at State Convention as this year's special project. Please be sure to collect donations toward this project. Tickets available from each local chapter president.

SPRING 2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/COUNCIL MEETING (CONTINUED)

During the Spring 2025 Executive Committee/Council Meeting, Mu State Parliamentarian, Mitzy Johnson-Mills, shared the proposed changes that had been made at Fall Workshop and are to be voted upon at the State Convention.

At the 2024 National Convention, the following recommendation was approved "\$10 increase to national dues beginning to be collected July 2025." Therefore, the following recommendations to the Mu State Bylaws and Standing Rules are being proposed to be in alignment with National.

Mu State Bylaws: No changes for no specific dollar amount referenced

Mu State Standing Rules:

Page 3: Section Fees and Dues

Proposed Revision: The revision is in **bold**.

1. New Member/Active Member
 - A. National dues for a new member shall be **\$60.00** and MU State's dues shall be \$20.00 for the fiscal year in which the person is initiated. Local dues shall be specified by the local chapter.
 - B. National membership dues thereafter shall be **\$60.00**. MU State dues thereafter shall be \$20.00 and local dues shall be specified by the local chapter.
2. Life Memberships
 - A. National fees for Honorary and Associate Life Memberships shall be ten (10) times the member dues (**\$600.00**).
 - B. MU State fees shall be waived, and local fees shall be specified by local chapters.
3. Campus/Collegiate Kappa
 - A. National dues for a new Campus/Collegiate Kappa member shall be **\$30.00** with the exception of those initiated after January 1. In that case, one-half (1/2) of the required Campus/Collegiate member national dues (**\$15.00**) shall be paid.
 - B. MU State Campus/Collegiate Kappa dues shall be \$5.00
 - C. Local dues shall be specified by the local chapter.
4. Inactive Member is a member in good standing who is unable to participate because of the member's infirmities or extreme family circumstances.
 - A. National dues for an Inactive member is **\$30.00** which is paid by the local chapter.
 - B. Mu State dues thereafter shall be \$10.00 which is to be paid by the inactive member in order to remain in good standing at the state level annually. (This is to cover the cost of an inactive member in receiving all Kappa Kappa Iota publications and communications until the state level states it is no longer feasible.)
- 5.. **Payment of DUES deadline:**

National and MU State dues must be received by the State Treasurer no later than May 31st for the upcoming new year.

Reminder of the rotation for hosting the State Convention:

2025	Region 1	Alpha Delta-Ripley
2026	Region 4	Beta-Columbus
2027	Region 2	Gamma-Booneville
2028	Region 1	Iota-Ripley
2029	Region 2	Eta-Corinth
2030	Region 3	Rho-Brookhaven

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE 2024-2025 MU STATE YEAR

It has been an honor this year to have served as your Mu State President, and I look forward to serving for one more additional year. I have enjoyed traveling throughout the state receiving invitations to meet with local chapters, install local chapter officers, and initiate new members. If I did not get an opportunity to visit with your chapter this year, please extend an invite for me to do so. I would love to visit any and all chapters—even those I was able to visit this year.



Gamma Members collect food for school food banks at each chapter meeting.



New Members Initiation—Gamma Chapter. New members initiated by Immediate Past State President, Donna Geno.



Installation of 2024-2025 Local Chapter Beta Officers in Columbus, MS



Joint Meeting of Alpha Delta and Iota

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE 2024-2025 MU STATE YEAR



Alpha Delta Members, Ripey, MS



Janice Kaplan of Rho Chapter (Brookhaven)—
spearheaded Valentine’s Candy Project for all
teachers and Brookhaven and Lincoln County
Schools



Eta members col-
lected bears for
State Troopers and
EMT personnel.



March 2025 Meeting with Eta Chapter Members in Corinth, MS



"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 2024-2025 National Scholarship Application OR 2024-2025 Educational Grant Application both at the bottom of the webpage). Please note that all National Scholarship application signatures must be handwritten, so please bring your National Scholarship Application to Mu State Convention in Ripley, MS on April 26th.

Mu State Scholarships: (Use the same application for national and state)

-**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, Tommye Walker, 105 Walker Lane, Ripley, MS 38683 postmarked no later than April 1, 2025. If you should have questions about the application, please contact Tommye at 662-587-1076 or email her at walker.tommye@yahoo.com

An electronic version of the application is available at www.nationalkappakappaiota.org



Local Chapter Reminders

(Page references included from the 2024-2025 Mu State Local Chapter President's Handbook given out at Fall Workshop.)

- Submit/mail yearly Philanthropic Report to Chair, Debbie McLaurin 3618 Hwy 82, Ethelsville, AL 35461 by April 1 (pg. 10)
- Submit/mail Membership Report to Beth Byrd, 90 CR 1250 Booneville, MS 38829 bbyrd@nemcc.edu by April 1 (pp. 28-31)
- Submit/mail yearly Empathy Report to Chair, Donna Geno 384 CR 7100 Booneville, MS 38829 dgeno1972@gmail.com by April 1 (pg. 17)
- Submit/mail names of deceased members to Memorial Chair, Bonnie Dalton 302 Afton Park Drive Corinth, MS 38834 bonnie.dalton51@gmail.com by April 1 (pg. 18)
- Submit/mail yearly Professional/Personal Report to Chair, Jackie Martin 711 Lower Meadville Dr., SW, Bogue Chitto, MS 39629 by April 1 (pg. 13)
- Submit/mail signed Mu State Scholarship Applications to Chair, Tommye Walker, 105 Walker Lane, Ripley, MS 38683 by April 1 (Application available online on the national website)



State Convention 2025 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 _____

First Time Member Attendee _____

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

_____ Friday night "Dinner/Welcome Program"

_____ Saturday State Convention (includes continental breakfast & lunch)

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

TOTAL FLAT REGISTRATION FEE IS \$40

Mail completed registration form and payment promptly by Friday, April 11, 2025

Make checks payable to Alpha Delta, Send check and completed registration form to:
Madelyn Ward, 310 CR 705, Blue Mountain, MS 38610

Questions? Contact Beth Byrd via e-mail at
 bbyrd@nemcc.edu or cell 662-720-4317