



The Kappa PROFILE

A Publication for Members of National Kappa Kappa Iota

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“Kappas Walk in Beauty and Light the Way for Education”

A Kappa’s Place in History

Submitted by Carolyn Wilkins

The beginning of the 19th Century was an exciting time for women in the United States and worldwide. Women worked together to accomplish great things for all women and children. The formation of Kappa Kappa Iota is an outcome of the 19th Century Women's Movement. In 1921, Kappa Kappa Iota was formed under the name “The Order of the Blue, Blue, Violets” as a social organization for female teachers, and in 1931 was renamed when it became a sorority. The Order of the Blue, Blue Violets was an organization for women that mirrored a similar organization, The Red, Red Rose, only open to men. There were many influential female leaders in the early 19th Century, and Kappa had Miss Mary Brogdon, Dean of Women of Oklahoma A&M University, and Miss Mabel Caldwell. By 1922, because of their dedicated work, The Order of the Blue, Blue Violets had a state charter, and our history began.

The first group of women suffragists were perhaps the most notable female organizers during the early 1900’s. They began meeting in 1912 and marched on Washington in 1913. In 1913, a Senate committee was formed and voted favorably on a women’s suffrage amendment; however, it did not pass. These persistent women would not be derailed. The amendment would continue to be reintroduced to the Senate for several more years. Women were fighting for their voices to be heard and their causes to be brought to the forefront of society. Their persistence demonstrated that when women gather together great things can happen. Our founding Kappa members share this persistent spirit.

While World War I (1914-1918) was fought in Europe, women in the United States continued to fight for the right to vote and be heard. They protested, were arrested, staged hunger strikes, and campaigned to get the 19th Amendment passed. On February 28, 1920, Oklahoma ratified the 19th Amendment, ahead of the ratification in the U.S. Constitution in August of that year, and 10 months ahead of the founding of Kappa. The fight for the 19th Amendment opened doors for women everywhere and paved the way for the formation of women’s organizations like Kappa.

Our door opened in 1921 when the women of Oklahoma A&M identified a need to form a social group for female teachers. The Articles of Incorporation for The Order of the Blue, Blue Violets stated the purpose as, “to promote good fellowship and fraternal cooperation and to labor for the elevation and dignifying of the teaching profession; to war relentlessly against all forces which do not tend toward the improvement of public schools; to issue charters signifying membership to local chapters or conclaves; to receive fees to establish a fund to provide scholarship funds for deserving girls; to vote bonds or execute other evidence of indebtedness for the purpose of providing money for building a club house or other buildings incidental to the promotion of the benevolent type of work in which the organization is participating.” In this, much like the work of the suffragists, Kappa Kappa Iota’s founding members provided a pathway for female teachers’ voices and causes to be heard.

As we gather in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in June 2025, let us not forget those that came before us reaching for the ideals of the Women’s Movement and Kappa ideals, but especially our founding guide Miss Brogdon who earned her bachelor’s degree in history and education at the University of Tennessee. We’ll walk where she walked as a teacher in the Chattanooga Public Schools.

The Kappa Profile is published quarterly by Kappa Kappa Iota National Headquarters. News releases and other information may be submitted for publication consideration to:

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February 1958, Mary Brogdon reading a letter from one of her former students, Senator (later President) Lyndon Johnson. Miss Brogdon was the retired Dean of Women of Southwest Texas State Teachers College.



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Recent Donations

General Fund

Any budgeted area of need

Margaret Gund Alpha Rho/Alpha State/OK
In memory of Ruby Jackson & family
Margaret Gund Alpha Rho/Alpha State/OK
In honor of Jack Swaim
Margaret Gund Alpha Rho/Alpha State/OK
In memory of David Swanson
Margaret Gund Alpha Rho/Alpha State/OK
In memory of Judy Hammond's Brother

General Headquarter Maintenance

Psi Chapter/NC
In honor of Current Psi Members
Sue Hagan Alpha Chapter/Upsilon State/SC

Undesignated

Jeri Hunter Alpha Rho/Alpha State/OK
In memory of Thomas C. Howard, M.D.
Alpha Rho Chapter/Alpha State/OK
In memory of Judy Seals (sister-in-law of Janice Luce)

Memorial Gardens

Margaret Gund/Alpha Rho/Alpha State/OK
In memory of Mabel Segnor
Carolyn Garretson Kappa Chapter/Beta State/NM

Kempe

Beta Delta Chapter/Alpha State/OK
Kappa Chapter/Rho State/NC
Alpha Gamma Chapter/Gamma State/KS



#Philanthropy

Husband and Wife Initiated as Kappa Members

Submitted By Cathe Kehe

Kyle and Cayla Kilby were officially initiated into the Alpha State/OK Gamma Beta Chapter on November 9, 2024 at the Annual Tulsa Council Initiation Brunch.

Cayla was initiated into the Oklahoma State University Campus/Collegiate Kappa chapter on October 20, 2022 and installed as their treasurer. She continued as their treasurer until May 2024.

Cayla was sponsored by the Alpha State Past State Presidents and the Louisiana Kappas to the National Convention in Baton Rouge under the leadership of Past National President, Phyllis Thomas. Cayla, husband Kyle, and son John attended the convention, participating in the scheduled meetings and events. They were a highlight of Phyllis's President's reception.

During the 2023 OSU Campus/Collegiate Kappa Initiation, Kyle asked about becoming a Kappa. Cathe Kehe, Alpha/OK State President, proceeded to find out what was needed to invite Kyle to become a Kappa. Kyle was sponsored by Cathe Kehe and joined the Gamma Beta Chapter in March 2024. He began attending the meetings along with Cayla, and sons John and Alex, and served as a delegate at the Montgomery, Alabama National Convention.

The Alpha/OK Past State Presidents again contributed funds to help send Cayla to the National Convention in Montgomery, Alabama in 2024.

Cayla secured a job at Stillwater Middle School in Stillwater, Oklahoma and is currently teaching STEM / 6th grade Engineering. She is applying to the Oklahoma State University Graduate School for a Masters in Aviation and Space with plans to begin in the Fall 2025 semester.

Kyle is a School Security Monitor and substitute bus driver with the Stillwater Public Schools. His love of his job is evident whenever he talks about it.

Together Cayla and Kyle are raising an amazing family. Kappa's nationwide are happy to have Cayla and Kyle as members of our great organization.



Annual Convention Luncheon



When you're packing, don't forget to pack a teddy bear or two, and a children's book!

This year's Books and Bears collection will benefit Northside Neighborhood House Chattanooga, TN for their Santa's Workshop and for children in need in the community. Books and Bears will be collected at the registration area to be added to the donation.

Northside began in 1924 by local women concerned about the welfare of their neighbors. They pride themselves on offering a "hand up not a handout." Every year, they have a Santa's Workshop so eligible families can select Christmas gifts for their children. In 2023 they served over 350 children.

The Books and Bears from Kappa Kappa Iota will be added to the donated new toys that families may select for their children.

#EmpathyTheHeartOfKappa

National Kappa Kappa Iota Proposed Budget 2025-2026

Income

Change in Market Value of Investments \$1,000.00
 Dividends/Capital Gains \$2,000.00
 Donations- General Fund/HQ Maintenance \$5,000.00
 Donations – Memorial Gardens \$1,000.00
 Dues/Fees \$74,760.00
 Headquarters Rental \$50.00
 Interest \$200.00
 Merchandise Sales \$2,000.00
 State Sales/Vendors/Trademark/Conv. Returns \$2000.00

Total Income \$88,010.00

Expenditures

Membership Development \$1,550.00
 National Convention \$5,350.00
 Professional Leadership Development \$150.00
 President’s Expenses \$250.00
 Executive Committee Meeting \$5,500.00
 Other Committee Expenses \$450.00
 The Kappa Profile \$1,600.00
 Office/ Administrative \$17,455.00
 Salaries, taxes \$30,000.00
 Headquarters \$17,200.00
 Insurance \$5,525.00
 Philanthropy \$100.00
 Merchandise Goods/ Supplies \$1,550.00
 Contingency \$1,330.00

Total Expenditures \$88,010.00



Ken Russell Tau-Chapter President and Carolyn Wilkins, Tau Chapter Vice President

Philanthropy in the Community

Submitted by Ken Russell

Pickens County Schools (Georgia) Media Specialists recently hosted their second annual Page-Turner Society Event on Saturday March 1, 2025 at Pickens County High School in Jasper.

Members of the local Kappa Kappa Iota Tau Chapter, provided a grant for the event. Students read a book of their choice, and then either produced a book report, poetry, or fan art. Each participant received recognition for their contribution and certificates were presented by Dr. Travis Thomas, Superintendent of Pickens County Schools. Attendees were welcomed by Dr. Abby May, the Executive Director of Teaching and Learning for Pickens County Schools.

In addition, students, parents, and other attendees were privileged to hear from local author Jeremy V. Allen, who recently published The Doors of Tommy O'Rourke. He discussed the writing process as well as the future of writing and answered questions.



June 23 – June 26, 2025,
 Chattanooga, TN

The Read House
 107 West MLK Blvd.
 Chattanooga, TN 37402
 Registration: Kappa Convention 2025



Look for convention updates on our National Kappa Kappa Iota, Inc Facebook Page

Convention Protocols

Dress Code Expectations/ Protocol

Dress Code for all business meetings shall be business casual. Members are expected to dress in a way that demonstrates respect for the organization.

The annual banquet is a more formal event. Members are asked to dress accordingly in dressy attire or Sunday best.

While on tours, Kappa members and guests are asked to dress comfortably for the event type. Remember to pack comfortable shoes for walking events.



Flag Service

During the First General Assembly the Flag Ceremony is held. State Presidents will process in, carrying their state flags.

When the American Flag is carried into the meeting hall, everyone shall stand facing the platform. Everyone shall remain standing in salute until the flag is carried from the room or placed in a stand. Members of each state should stand when their state is called and their state flag is brought to the platform area.

Meals



Did you know?

When the National President is in attendance at a meal function, no one eats until the president takes a bite!

Kappa Jewelry

Kappa pins shall be worn with dignity and may be worn at any time to promote good public relations. To wear the pin properly, place your right thumb at the base of your neck, with the fingers slightly spread. Your pin shall be placed where your little finger ends. It may be worn on a separate background, but to lend to the dignity, only the official Kappa pin shall be placed on this background. Other Kappa jewelry may be worn with discretion.

Memorial Service Protocol

As Kappas we cherish the memories of the time we spend together and when one of our fellow Kappas joins the Omega Chapter it is important for us to collectively honor those we've lost.

Planning a solemn and respectful memorial service honors our memories, relationships, and connections. It gives us a chance to collectively say goodbye to our friends and support those closest to them.

When you attend the ceremony, you may not personally have known all or any of the Kappas who've passed but what is important is that we attend the memorial service in our state and at national convention so that we can support those who are grieving. The shared grieving helps us process a shared loss.

There are some general considerations for appropriate conduct during a memorial service. Attendees should be respectful, courteous, and generous to others. The presence of Kappas at the service, a kind touch or word can make a big difference during a difficult time. Having conversations, using phones for any purpose, and engaging in other activities can detract from the ceremony and should be avoided.

There are also considerations for appropriate attire. Attendees are asked to dress in their "Sunday best" for a memorial service. Jeans, shorts, and other casual attire are not acceptable and may be a reason to be turned away from attendance. Name tags are also not worn at a memorial service. The focus is on those Kappas being remembered, not those in attendance.

Arriving before the service begins will prevent interruptions of the service and keep the attention on the memorial. When you arrive, it is appropriate to sit with other members from your state. You should follow the prompts of the memorial committee when asked.

Memorial services are always beautiful remembrance ceremonies, and you may be tempted to take pictures, but taking pictures is only allowed after the completion of the service.

A memorial service gives us a chance to remember our friends, and console those closest to our lost members and the tradition is one to maintain with deep respect.

