



# Kappa PROFILE

A Publication for Members of National Kappa Kappa Iota

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2026 Spring Issue

*"Kappas, Forever Friends"*



Rho State, North Carolina, is excited to host the 2026 Kappa Kappa Iota Convention in Charlotte, NC. There is still much to do, but we are working hard to make this an exciting, informative, and fun time for our members. National President, Brenda Hope, is excited to host you in her home state!

Let's start with some updates! There was a typo in the Convention Profile regarding the scooter rental company's number. The name is Charlotte Mobility Scooters, and the number is 704-448-2680. Also, reservations at the Sheraton Charlotte Airport Hotel need to be made with

Cathy Cook. Call the hotel at 704-392-1200 and ask for her. If she doesn't answer, please leave her a message. She is great about returning calls. We don't get credit for the rooms if you book with a third-party group. We receive perks that depend on the number of rooms we reserve. Please book your hotel and send in your registrations as soon as possible. It will help with planning.

Our keynote speaker for the Annual Luncheon on Tuesday is Sharon Decker. Her sister is Susan Allred, who is a member of Pi Chapter/NC. Both ladies are very talented and are leaders in many ways. Sharon Allred Decker is a native of North Carolina who has held leadership roles in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors across the state. A summa cum laude graduate of UNC-Greensboro, she spent 17 years at Duke Power (now Duke Energy), becoming its first female Vice President. While at Duke, she spearheaded and deployed the first customer call center located in Charlotte. Her career also includes leadership roles at the Lynnwood Foundation, The Tapestry Group, Doncaster, Inc., and, most recently, as President of the Tryon International Equestrian Center in Tryon, NC, since 2019. She served as North Carolina's Secretary of Commerce and was Senior Advisor for Long-Term Recovery. Her nonprofit, Tapestry Collaborative, contracts with GROW NC to lead a collaborative effort for a framework and plan for long-term economic recovery as western North Carolina rebuilds.

Sharon and husband Bob live in Tryon, NC. She speaks to and often hosts her sister Susan's Kappa Chapter, keeping them informed and inspired. Susan will also lead the workshop, "Strategies to Overcome Feeling Overwhelmed."

See you in Charlotte!



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**National Kappa Kappa Iota**

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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nationalkappakappaiota.org



## NEC Attends Tulsa Council BUNCO!

Front: Dana Terrell, Henrietta Hamilton, Brenda Hope, Diana Spriggs  
Back: Carolyn Garretson, Carolyn Wilkins, Brenda Morrison

### In this newsletter you can expect:

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## Recent Donations

### Past State President

Connie Schobert/Life Member/Gamma Chapter/Omicron/IA

In honor of Marcelle Bridgeman and family

### Memorial Gardens

Norma Foster/Former Member of Gamma Chapter/Omicron/IA

In memory to the family of Barbara Eckert

Connie Schobert/Life Member/Gamma Chapter/Omicron/IA

In memory to the family of Barbara Eckert

Mary Ann Bragg/ Gamma Chapter/ Omicron/IA

In memory of Barbara Eckert

Beta Delta Chapter/Delta/TX

In memory of Earline Lane

Margaret Gund/Alpha Rho Chapter/Alpha/OK

In memory of Gladys Osborn (sister of Rose Tollette/Alpha Rho/OK)

In memory of Skip Klingman (husband of Jo Klingman/Epsilon/OK)

In memory of Maria Wilson

In memory of Bill Chilcoat

In memory of Marilyn Bridges/Gamma Beta/Alpha/OK

### Scholarships

Undesignated

Jeri Hunter/Alpha Rho Chapter/Alpha/OK

In memory of Marilyn Bridges/Gamma Beta Chapter/Alpha/OK

Jeri Hunter/Alpha Rho Chapter/Alpha/OK

In memory of Skip Klingman, husband of Jo Klingman/Upsilon Chapter/Alpha/OK

### Kempe

Iota Zeta Chapter/Iota/NE

Iota Chapter/Lambda/GA

Alpha Rho Chapter/Eta/LA

Epsilon Phi Chapter/Alpha/OK

Beta Omicron Chapter/Alpha/OK

Beta Theta Chapter/Eta/LA

Beta Kappa Chapter/Delta/TX

Theta Chapter/Phi/OH

Delta Chapter/Alpha Alpha/KY

## A GEORGIA PEACH RETIRES

by Ken Russell

Melinda Overton Sams, Past National President, who has been involved in Kappa for many years, especially in Lambda State-Georgia, recently submitted her resignation as State Treasurer. In recognizing her over 30 years of faithful service to Georgia Kappas, Lambda State President Ken Russell praised her loyalty and dedication to the organization and encouraged all Kappas throughout the state and Nation to let Melinda know of their appreciation and love. “She more than exemplifies all the finest qualities of Kappa Kappa Iota. In fact, she simply embodies them.”



While serving as State Treasurer, and as her Local Tau Chapter Treasurer (in which she plans to continue serving), she has been archiving and writing about Lambda State-Georgia Kappa History. Perhaps it could be a Georgia Kappa “History of the Violets,” or could we say “History of Keeping KAPPA Friends on Our Minds.”

Congratulations Melinda. Please enjoy your well-deserved retirement, and thank you for your many years of dedicated service to Kappa!!!

## GAMMA STATE “SMARTIES”

by Diana Spriggs



Gamma State, Rho Chapter made 450 “Smartie” cards for all the students at Marlett Elementary School in Manhattan, Kansas for the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School!

## Anticipation

In the dead of winter, spring seemed so far away  
 Yet my faith knew as I planted bulbs that cold day  
 The new season would dawn declaring God’s work is done  
 So awaken little seeds of faith. Earth waits patiently with great anticipation.

Mary Lou Hughes  
 Eta State/LA/Alpha



## National Kappa Kappa Iota Proposed Budget 2026-2027

### Income

Change in Market Value of Investments	\$1,000.00
Dividends/Capital Gains	\$2,000.00
Donations- General Fund/HQ Maintenance	\$4,000.00
Donations – Memorial Gardens	\$1,000.00
Dues/Fees	\$78,480.00
Headquarters Rental	\$50.00
Interest	\$100.00
Merchandise Sales	\$1,000.00
State Sales/Vendors/Trademark/Conv. Returns	\$250.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$87,880.00</b>

### Expenditures

Membership Development	\$1,550.00
National Convention	\$5,065.00
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	\$17,995.00
Salaries, taxes	\$30,000.00
Headquarters	\$17,200.00
Insurance	\$6025.00
Philanthropy	\$100.00
Merchandise Goods/ Supplies	\$1,550.00
Contingency	\$445.00
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$87,880.00</b>



### News From Lambda State

Lambda State, Georgia, announces a venue change for Convention 2027! Due to unexpectedly high costs in Savannah, GA, the Georgia Convention Committee has changed the venue to Augusta, GA!

“Augusta is the Garden City of the South, home of the globally-recognized Masters Tournament, birthplace of Soul Icon James Brown, and home of the US Army's Cyber Center of Excellence at Fort Eisenhower. Founded in 1736 by General James Oglethorpe (a statue of whom graces Augusta Common), Augusta's streets have been trod by Native Americans, British and Colonial Soldiers, Presidents of the United States, heroes and villains, entertainers, scholars, sportsmen, and everyday people who have carved, formed, and shaped a small trading outpost into Georgia's second-largest city.” Click here to [VISIT AUGUSTA](#)

### NAME BADGES!

Order a magnetic Kappa name tag to proudly wear at any Kappa or networking event. Badges are approximately 3” wide and have our logo and your customized name and state. Badges must be preordered and paid for. Cost is \$15 per nametag, and if ordered by May 1st at midnight EST, it will be available for pickup at the 2026 Convention in Charlotte. Additional orders will be accepted in Charlotte and can be mailed for a small fee or picked up at the State Presidents’ Meeting in Tulsa in October.



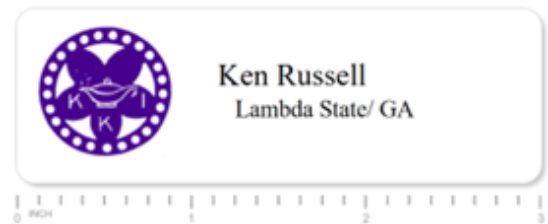
**National Convention 2027  
Augusta, Georgia**

**Augusta Marriott Convention Center  
June 21-24, 2027**

**Marcelle Bridgeman, Convention Chair  
Jan Anderson, Registrar  
Kathy Russell, Treasurer**

**To Order,  
Contact Carolyn Wilkins at 772-370-  
340, wilkinsacing@aol.com**

**Payment accepted; Cash, Zelle, Venmo,  
Paypal**





**NEC POSITION**  
NATIONAL RECORDING SECRETARY

Responsibilities:

- Record accurate minutes of board and annual meetings
- Maintain records of motions, votes, and board actions
- Ensure minutes are approved and archived properly
- Attend the Fall State Presidents' Meeting, Spring Business Meeting, and National Convention
- Serve as the National Chair of the History Committee

Review the National Nomination form on the National website

www.nationalkappakappaiota.com  
or email  
kki202122@gmail.com

**APPLY NOW**

**2030 PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION FUNDRAISER**

The 2030 President's Reception will be here before we know it and Gamma State is already preparing! Gamma State will be selling raffle tickets for this beautiful quilt at the 2026 Convention in Charlotte!



**\$1/ EACH  
OR 6 FOR \$5**



**CONVENTION SHIRTS**



**The 2026 Convention Planning team designed a lavender colored t-shirt with a sparkly logo!** Pre-orders and payments are being accepted in advance so that you can pick them up when you register at the convention. Some shirts will be available for purchase at the convention, but there will be a limited number, so please order ahead if you're coming. You can also pre-order for members who are unable to attend the convention.

Short sleeve- \$15 (S-XL sizes) Long sleeve- \$18 (S-XL sizes) Short and Long sleeve \$20 (2XL and 3XL)

See the Convention edition of The Profile for an order form, or contact Lynn McNeilly, Convention Chair (Call 828-442-6776) 124 John Thomas Dr., Casar, NC 28020

**UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES**

**(Report- Responsibility of)**

**MAY 1, 2026**

- National Nomination Form (MUST be Postmarked by May 1, 2026) (certified mail return receipt requested, recommended)
- National Committee Reports- National Committee Chair
- National Officer Reports- National Officer
- Names of State Delegate & Alternate to the National Nominating Committee- State President
- 2026-2027 Convention Report Book Deadlines- State Presidents
  - \*State Presidents' End-of-Year Report
  - \*V.I.P. and Incentive Award Reports (MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MAY 1, 2026)
- Local Philanthropic Report- Local Chair
- Local Professional/ Personal Dev. Report- Local Chair
- Local Empathy Report- Local Chair

**MAY 5, 2026**

- State Empathy Report- State Chair

**MAY 15, 2026**

- State Philanthropic/ PR Report- State President or Philanthropic Chair
- State Professional/ Personal Dev. Report- State Professional Dev. Chair
- 2026-2027 State Officer List- Current State President
- 2026-2027 State Committee Chair List- State President
- Report of Deceased Member- Local President

**JUNE 1, 2026**

- 2026-2027 Local Chapter Officer List- Chapter President
- National Scholarship Applications- Applicant (MUST BE POSTMARKED JUNE 1, 2026)
- Martha Wilson Grant for Growing Minds Applications- Applicant (MUST BE POSTMARKED JUNE 1, 2026)
- National Convention Delegates- Local Chapter

**JUNE 15, 2026**

- National Presidents' Book Material- President's Book Chair
- 2026-2027 Local Chapter Officer List- State President

**JUNE 30, 2026**

- Legend of the Violets Summary- State President

