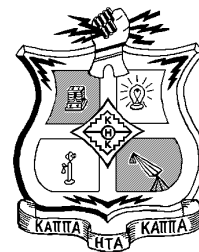


# Kappa Eta Kappa



January 2021 Newsletter

Delta Alumni Association

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**Happy New Year from the membership of Delta Chapter! We hope you had a Merry Christmas, Joyous Hanukkah, and Happy Holiday season. Thanks for your ongoing support in 2020!**

Welcome to our single newsletter for the Fall 2020 semester. This newsletter traditionally begins with the phrase “as usual,” but this past year has been anything but usual. Due to the ongoing worldwide pandemic, many of our favorite activities have taken on a different form, while others such as UW Homecoming and MARA Hamfest have sadly been completely cancelled. By this time in the academic year, we would have seen many of you in person for our annual UW Homecoming pre-game event.

The Fall 2020 school semester also looked very different for the active members of Delta Chapter. UW-Madison was able to successfully offer a full semester of courses to students, thanks to aggressive policies, testing, and online learning to keep students safe and healthy. Students living at the chapter house did a fantastic job adapting to the changing environment, and we are especially proud of the COVID-19 policy implemented and agreed to by members and housemates, which established rules for use of masks, limits on guests in the chapter house, and limits to the number of in-person attendees at meetings. To our knowledge, there were no known cases of or exposures to COVID-19 at the fraternity.

Thanks to everyone who has replied to our e-mail to the alumni list, and those who have already paid their dues online. *We would like to have everyone’s current e-mail address* so we can keep in touch through this DAA alumni e-mail list. Because of the rapidly evolving situation over the course of 2020, we chose to delay publishing this newsletter. More than ever, we need your help through dues and donations to stay strong as an organization and stay connected with one another. We look forward to a brighter 2021!

## ***Schedule of Upcoming Meetings***

Next DAA pre-NEC special meeting ..... Saturday January 30, 2021 at 1 pm, Online  
94<sup>th</sup> National Convention ..... Saturday, Feb 27, 2021, Online  
Delta Exec Board meets each Monday at 7 PM online using Zoom. All are welcome to attend!

## ***DAA/DHC Special Membership Meeting – Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 1 pm***

The purpose of this meeting is to plan for the 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the National Executive Council (NEC) on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021, to elect our DAA voting representatives, and to elect DHC officers for the upcoming year. A review of the FY 2020 DHC finances and 2021 budget will also be presented. The meeting will once again be held online, using the Zoom teleconferencing platform. A link to the meeting and instructions for how to join will be sent to the alumni e-mail list. The meeting will start at 1 pm and should adjourn by 5 pm. Please e-mail Jerry Peplinski ([jpeplin@itis.com](mailto:jpeplin@itis.com)) if you will be able to call in to this DAA Special Meeting. Let us know if there are any topics or issues you would like to have added to the agenda.

## ***94<sup>th</sup> National Convention - Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021***

The 94th National Convention will be hosted this year in an online format, instead of at Beta Chapter in Minneapolis, MN as proposed at the previous convention. The meeting starts at 9 am. We will e-mail the DAA alumni mailing list with information on how to join if you would like to participate. All current members of the DAA will find enclosed with this letter an NEC delegate proxy ballot. Please sign and return your proxy ballot to us by Saturday February 13th, 2021. Alumni of all KHK chapters are welcome to join the convention and to participate. Please return your proxy, even if you plan to call in.

### ***Chapter Update***

In this section, we would normally be introducing the newly initiated members of Delta Chapter. With the abrupt transition to online learning in the Spring 2020 semester, and rapidly changing situation during the Fall 2020 semester, the unfortunate result is that no new members were initiated since the last newsletter was published. While the chapter did have one person interested in pledging this semester, with rapidly changing rules from the University prohibiting student organizations from hosting gatherings or events, the decision was made to postpone the initiation of the 9-member pledge class from Spring 2020, as well as the prospective member from fall. While a few meetings were held near the start of the semester, including meetings outdoors held on the lawn in front of E-Hall, all subsequent meetings and events were transitioned to an online format. Members living at the house would frequently join the call together.

Because meetings, social events, and other normal activities throughout the semester had to be cancelled, it was decided that dues for fraternity membership would not be collected for Fall 2020. The chapter bid farewell to Tiger He (D1366), Matthew Kramer (D1352), Yudai Yaguchi (D1368), and Ali Zaidi (D1359) the Spring 2020 semester, and Kiara Mutschler (D1377) this Fall 2020. There are currently 35 active members going in to Spring 2021. While there is still uncertainty regarding the new semester, there are considerations for a pledge class in Spring 2021. Please see the end of the newsletter for a detailed update on chapter activities from the former chapter president, Sathwik Patten (D1378).

### ***Delta Housing Corporation Update***

The Delta Housing Corporation (DHC) collects rent from the chapter to cover annual house expenses (pest control, insurance, and property taxes) plus house maintenance and repair expenses. The DAA has a House Improvement Fund, which helps enable DHC to make capital or large maintenance improvements to the house. Our plan is to keep DHC expenses down, because we want to make the house affordable for members living here. The ultimate plan is to not pass down the expenses of housing projects to the chapter in the form of increased rent. Your generous donations to the House Improvement Fund help make this possible.

In spite of the ongoing pandemic situation, massive DAA and DHC-funded improvements to the house were accomplished. We have continued to work with our preferred contractor, Icon LLC, to renovate Rooms 31 and 32, upgrade wiring from the third floor electrical panel, renovate and insulate the attic, install new storage dividers, bathroom vent fan, and perform a complete demolition and rebuilt of the third floor bathroom.

#### ***Special Call for Donations***

We are once again making a special call for donations. Over the past three years, significant renovations have been accomplished thanks to a generous donation from the estate of Steve Paugh to the DHC, and ongoing member donations to the DAA House Improvement Fund.

With the completion of rooms 31 and 32, only Room 27 is left for renovation. Once rooms are complete, future work will focus on improving common areas such as the kitchen and hallways.

By bringing the rooms in the house up to a standard of living comparable to or better than rental options in the area, the DHC is fulfilling its ongoing mission to make the house an attractive place for members to live. The house is fully rented for the 2020-2021 academic year.

We need ongoing support from alumni to enable this important work to continue. *When renewing your membership this year, please consider an extra donation to the House Improvement Fund.*



Room 31 before (left) and after (right) renovation, including rebuilding of the wall separating Rooms 31 and 32. Key features of the renovated rooms include spacious, well-organized closets, new durable and high-quality overlay flooring, and many conveniently placed electrical outlets. **Visit <http://daa.khk.org> for more photos.**

We have come very close to achieving our goal of all rented rooms renovated by the end of this summer (2020). The wall separating Rooms 31 and 32 was demolished and rebuilt for improved soundproofing. Carpet and worn out flooring was replaced with a modern, durable overlay floor. Improvements included new electrical outlets, drywall, replacement of trim, painting, installation of fixtures such as mirrors, and rebuilt closets with rods and hangers. Improved baseboard hot water heating was installed in Room 22 and 32. Room 27 has a new drywall ceiling, however the renovations are not fully completed. The approximate cost (labor and materials) for room renovations this summer was \$22,000.

Electrical upgrades included new wiring run from the third floor panel to outlets in rooms, creating dedicated air conditioner outlets, and rewiring hallway lighting. The cost for electrical and miscellaneous expenses were approximately \$12,500. Major improvements to the attic include repaired floor to minimize trip hazards, additional insulation, greatly improved lighting, and rebuilt storage dividers for member's personal items that will not fit in rooms, as well as storage for DAA and DHC items. Attic improvements cost approximately \$8,500.

Finally, in a major undertaking, the third floor bathroom was completely demolished and rebuilt with floor to ceiling ceramic tiles, updated plumbing fixtures, motion sensor lighting and new handrailing and fixtures for improved usability and accessibility. Water supply pipes were removed from the wall and replaced with modern PEX plumbing due to a restricted hot water supply. A fan system with a more powerful blower was installed in the attic, serving both 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor bathrooms. The cost for rebuilding the bathroom was approximately \$37,000



A panoramic view of the new 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Bathroom, featuring new fixtures and floor-to-ceiling tile.

Approximate Renovation Costs	
Rooms #31 & #32	\$ 22,000.00
Electrical + Misc	\$ 12,500.00
Attic	\$ 8,500.00
Bathroom	\$ 37,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 80,000.00</b>

The balance in the DAA House Improvement Fund is currently \$20,586, after a recent vote to reallocate \$10,000 from the Delta Donation Fund. The projects completed this summer and fall exceeded our expected budget, however we feel this was justified due to the volume and quality of work that was accomplished. Of this \$80,000, we will pay \$20,000 from DHC funds and \$20,000 from the DAA House Improvement fund now, and work to arrange payment in installments for the remainder.

The DHC is evaluating options for financing this expense, such as a loan from the DAA. Expenses related to ongoing maintenance of the house will continue to be covered by DHC funds. We hope that DAA members will continue to make generous donations to the DAA House Improvement Fund.

Visit us at [daa.khk.org](http://daa.khk.org)

Future projects will focus on improving common areas in the house. Potential projects include: Replacement of kitchen countertops, lower cabinets, and kitchen floor (estimate needed); Refinishing all of the wood floors in the house, including removing hallway carpet and some room carpet to expose the wood floor for refinishing, with an estimated cost of around \$10,000; Installation of a whole-house sprinkler system for fire suppression, with an estimated cost of around \$80,000; Replacing all windows in the house, estimated at \$68,000 (depending on the quality of the windows) with the addition of permanently installed air conditioner units, estimated at an additional cost of \$20,000. Your donations to the House Improvement fund will help us perform these improvements to the house.

### ***DAA Update***

The DAA had our annual meeting online using the Zoom teleconference platform on Saturday, September 19, 2020. In attendance were the DAA officers – President Jerry Peplinski (D916), Vice President Scott Woods (D823), Secretary Andy Koch (D1182), Treasurer Samuel Hurley (D1238), and DAA director Roy Rasmussen (D917). DAA Directors Gary Choncholas (D896) and Mark Van Susteren (D768) were not present. In addition, DAA members Paul Geisel (D252), Joe Muehlenkamp (D893), Jeffery Nilles (D629), John Swanstrom, son of Willard Swanstrom (D891), Ed Sykes (D897), and Ed Westell (D965) were also in attendance. Delta Chapter President (at the time) Sathwik Pattem (D1464), Vice President Bryce Belgarde (D1457), Secretary Kiara Mutschler (D1463), and Treasurer John “Mack” Zern (D1456) also called in to the meeting.

Because the meeting was hosted online, several DAA members who do not usually join were able to participate. Officer reports were given, the budget for the upcoming year was passed and goals were set for the next year. Of note, a proposal was passed to reallocate \$10,000 of funds from the “Delta Donation Fund” to the “House Improvement Fund”, and this transfer is reflected in the



Top Row: Scott Woods, Sam Hurley, Andy Koch, Ed Sykes. Second Row: Joe Muehlenkamp, Jeffery Nilles, Bryce Belgarde, Kiara Mutschler. Third Row: Ed Westell, Roy Rasmussen, Jerry Peplinski (not pictured), Sathwik Pattem (not pictured). Not Pictured: John “Mack” Zern

financial report included at the end of this newsletter. A copy of the fiscal year (FY) 2019-2020 financial summary is included with this mailing. Please note that our FY runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year to June 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year. During the open floor, Ed Sykes shared information about a book that he recently published, “The Patch and The Stream Where the American Fell”. Election of officers was the final order of business. The new officers are listed on the next page of the newsletter.

The DAA is always looking for local alumni who can attend meetings at Delta chapter during the school year for the purpose of conducting DAA business. Meetings are currently held online using Zoom. If you are interested in helping with the operation of the DAA and acting as a liaison with the Chapter, please contact any of the DAA officers or directors. Including with this newsletter you will find a membership survey to update your information for the upcoming Membership Booklet.

### ***Membership Renewal Time!***

It’s time to renew your membership in the Delta Alumni Association! Dues are only \$25 per year, \$10 of which goes to National to provide delegate voting at the convention and support their financial needs. The membership year runs from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. We had 203 members for 2020. Use the

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enclosed reply slip for your 2020 membership dues. Please return your dues by February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021. We hope you will renew for 2021!

In addition to the mail-in form, dues and donations can also be paid online with a credit card at our Delta Alumni Association website. Visit [daa.khk.org](http://daa.khk.org), and click on the “[Dues and Donations](#)” link at the top of the page. You can then fill out a form with your dues payment and any donations you wish to make (please be generous). You do **not** need a PayPal account to pay online with a credit or debit card.

We thank you for your support of the Chapter and of the Delta Alumni Association. Don’t forget to return your updated Membership Survey with your membership renewal, or update online at [daa.khk.org](http://daa.khk.org)

*Fraternally Yours,  
the Delta Alumni Association*

**OFFICERS**

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Vice-President  
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**Mail Renewals and Donations to:**

Delta Alumni Association of Kappa Eta Kappa  
PO Box 45836 Madison, WI 53744-5836

DELTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF KAPPA ETA KAPPA  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION

2019-2020 SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT		
BEGINNING BALANCE (7/1/19)	\$	54,032.25
2019-2020 INCOME	\$	21,246.50
2019-2020 EXPENSES	\$	(10,160.33)
ENDING BALANCE (6/30/20)	\$	65,118.42

DAA OPERATIONS BREAKDOWN	
DUES INCOME	\$ 3,045.00
INTEREST INCOME	\$ 1,098.81
MISC INCOME (DECALS, PENS SALES, ETC)	\$ 104.69
OFFICE EXPENSES	\$ (1,312.54)
NEWSLETTER EXPENSES	\$ (1,725.22)
HOMECOMING & ALUM EVENT EXPENSES	\$ (746.65)
MISC EXPENSES (SWAPFEST/WIFI)	\$ (377.69)
MISC EXPENSES (UMBRELLA POLICY)	\$ (95.04)
BANK FEES (PAYPAL)	\$ (132.49)
NET GAIN / (LOSS)	\$ (141.13)

DELTA DONATIONS FUND	
DONATION INCOME	\$ 5,780.00
DONATION EXPENSES	\$ (2,552.96)
TRANSFER \$10K TO HOUSE IMPROVEMENT	\$ (10,000.00)
NET GAIN / (LOSS)	\$ (6,772.96)
HOUSE IMPROVEMENT FUND	
DONATION INCOME	\$ 8,353.00
DONATION EXPENSES	\$ (322.74)
TRANSFER \$10K FROM DELTA DONATION	\$ 10,000.00
NET GAIN / (LOSS)	\$ 18,030.26
NEC DUES AND DONATIONS	
NEC DUES RECEIVED	\$ 2,020.00
NEC DONATIONS RECEIVED	\$ 845.00
NEC DUES FORWARDED	\$ (2,050.00)
NEC DONATIONS FORWARDED	\$ (845.00)
NET GAIN / (LOSS)	\$ (30.00)

ACCOUNT BALANCES				
	BEGINNING BALANCE	ENDING BALANCE	Δ	
GENERAL FUND	\$ 17,474.47	\$ 17,333.34	\$	(141.13)
DELTA DONATION FUND	\$ 33,969.04	\$ 27,196.08	\$	(6,772.96)
HOUSE IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$ 2,558.74	\$ 20,589.00	\$	18,030.26
OWED TO NEC (DUES&DONATIONS)	\$ 30.00	\$ -	\$	(30.00)
TOTALS	\$ 54,032.25	\$ 65,118.42	\$	11,086.17

***A word from the Fall 2020 President and Active members of Delta Chapter of Kappa Eta Kappa.***

Sathwik Pattem  
Fall 2020 President of Delta Chapter – Kappa Eta Kappa

Email: [spattem@wisc.edu](mailto:spattem@wisc.edu)  
Phone: 262-955-4141

The chapter is currently nearing the end of our Fall 2020 semester.

COVID-19 has caused us to change course and cancel all in-person events to reduce the spread of the virus and to create a safe environment for the 12 people living in the house. All the housemates got together early in September to draft a COVID-19 policy, outlining rules and regulations that all of our members had to follow. We had a discussion and drafted the policy so that everyone living in the house was comfortable with their safety while they were here.

Since all in-person events were cancelled, we delayed the initiation for our 9-member pledge class in the Spring and for our 1-person pledge class this Fall until the Spring. We held weekly meetings, several professional talks, and social events all online through Zoom or Discord. American Family Insurance and Splunk did a great job accommodating the online environment and speaking to our members. Game nights where we played Among Us or Jackbox Games were also a fun time.

Regardless of COVID-19, we have made quite a few upgrades around the house. Over the summer, several rooms were renovated including Room 31, 32, the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor bathroom, and the attic, causing members to lease every single room in the house. The coordination of these upgrades was spearheaded by Jerry Peplinski. Weekly meetings were held to discuss the construction. Unfortunately the project went past the deadline and well into the Fall semester but now that the work is done, I can definitely confirm that the renovations have motivated members to move in, and the house looks better than I've ever seen it before. Room 31, 32 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor bathroom are exceptionally well done. Once COVID-19 simmers down so that it is safe to return to normal activity, we would love to show any alumni the improvements around the house, which ultimately convinced me as well to move in. I am excited for the proposed kitchen updates next summer, after seeing how drastically the construction improved the house.

Having a full house for the first time in recent history prompted us to also upgrade the WiFi to a Google Mesh network, using money that came from the sale of items donated by the estate of Steve Paugh. We also upgraded our Internet service with Charter from 100 Mbps to 900 Mbps. The DAA also generously bought the chapter a new 3D printer, which several members have already utilized. Many members like using the library as a hangout space or a study space, so we added a magnetic door to control the climate in that area as well as limit sound leaving the area. We purchased a new 70" 4k TV for the living room and plugged our new Nintendo Switch into it as well. The TV that was in the living room is now in the library, improving that room further. The actives voted to buy an arcade machine, so we got NBA Jam for the basement. Actives love playing it during social events. The house has become very lively in a stark comparison to when I first pledged when the house had 5 people living here, and I can say with complete confidence that KHK is trending upwards.

While we unfortunately are not allowing many visitors right now, once COVID-19 simmers down we would love to show off all these improvements to the alumni so that alumni can enjoy them as well. We are also looking forward to when we can throw tailgates once again.

If any alumni has any questions about the chapter, please contact the new KHK President, Bryce Belgarde, at [belgarde@wisc.edu](mailto:belgarde@wisc.edu) or myself at the previously listed contact information.