Florida DKG Educational Foundation, Inc

Annual Membership Meeting

MINUTES

September 19, 2025

Orlando Marriott Lake Mary

Lake Mary, Florida

Call to Order

Carol Ann Casey, Chair, called to order the meeting of the Membership of the Florida DKG Educational Foundation, Inc. on Friday, September 19, 2025 at 7:17p.m. at the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary, Lake Mary, Florida.

Greetings

Carol Ann Casey, Chair, welcomed everyone to the Florida DKG Educational Membership Meeting.

Approval of September 20, 2024 Minutes

Deanie DeFelix, Chair, reported that the minutes have been reviewed and approved as corrected.

Appointment of a Committee to Review the Minutes

Carol Ann Casey appointed Raquel House, Chair and Kathy Raiford to review today's minutes.

Introduction of Board of Directors

Carol Ann Casey (V) Chair 2028
Dr. Beverly Helms (I) Vice-Chair 2026
Diane Revels (IV) Secretary 2026
Connie Kostyra (IV) Treasurer, Director Emerita 2026
Roxanne Berger (II) 2026
Dr. Constance Besco (VI) 2026
Geraldine "Deanie" DeFelix (I) 2026
Racquel House (V) 2028
Kathy Raiford (II) 2026
Ann-Marie Spakowski (VI) 2028
Nancy Marmesh (V) DKG Florida State Organization President 2027
Debra Graff (III)FLDKGEF Webmaster
Terry Stanilonis (II), Immediate Past Florida State Organization President was absent.

Introduction of Proposed Board of Directors

Deanie DeFelix introduced the nominees:
Ruth Paine, 1st 4-year term beginning Sept. 2025
Susan Siemer, elected by Board of Directors to replace Kathy Diesner (2026) who resigned and 1st 4-year term beginning Sept. 2026
Jennifer Wilson, 1st 4-year term beginning Sept. 2026

These nominees will be voted on at tomorrow's Executive Board Meeting on Saturday, September 20, 2025.

Report of the Secretary

Diane Revels, Secretary, reported that:

- The Board of Directors met earlier today.
- The Florida Corporation Annual Report was filed in March 2025.
- The corporate income tax filing will be made by the November deadline.
- The minutes of the annual meeting, dated September 19, 2025, will be available on the website, www.fldkg.org once reviewed and approved by the Foundation's Minutes and Review Committee.

Report of the Treasurer

Connie Kostyra, Treasurer, reported on the following:

Annual Review of Foundation Financial Records:

- Trace of Cash (back of agenda) July 01, 2024 through June 30, 2025.
  - Cash and Investments July 01, 2024-$166, 215.99
    - Receipts: $22, 807.42
      - Contributions-$15,999.00
      - Other- Auction Sales-$733.00
      - Interest Income (Space Coast)-$4,564.41
      - Investment (Edward Jones)-$1,520.01
    - Total Revenue-$189,023.41
    - Expenditures-$10,196.07 Line items include:
      - Technology-$2,226.00-Webserver and Webmaster
      - Copies-$55.84-we unitize CANVA which saves money
      - Printing brochures-$134.00
      - Grants-$5,758.23
      - Awards-$1,872.00
      - IRS Tax Exempt Report-$150.00
    - Ending Cash & Investments 6/30/2025-$178,827.34

  - $100,000 is seed money from the state that can't be touched/spent.

- The 3-year Fidelity Bond ($594.00) will be due in 2026.

- **Financial report by CPA for IRS filing**
  - The CPA files the IRS Tax Exempt Report.

- Connie said, "Please encourage everyone you know to apply for the awards/grants." Almost $16,000 has been allocated. "Help us spend the money."

Grants and Awards Committee

Beverly Helms, Chair, reported that every Florida State member of DKG is a member of the Educational Foundation. One needs to apply to get the money.

- **Awardees**
  - The money is for members and non-members.
  - Recipients awarded will be noted in the Educator Express.
  - Ask, "Have you ever received an award or grant from the Educational Foundation?"
  - Several recipients have served or currently serve on the Educational Foundation board.

- **Monies for Awards and Grants**
  - Applications became available on **September 1, 2025.** One may find them on the Florida DKG website under Educational Foundation. The deadline is **February 1, 2026**.

The foundation is "Investing in Florida Educators." Beverly thanked everyone for their support.

Public Relations Committee

Kathy Raiford, Chair, reported that the foundation has multiple ways in which the foundation communicates. These include:

- ✓ **Educator Express**- Spotlights educators and is published 3 x year.
- ✓ **Florida Rays**- Published 4 x year.
- ✓ **Brochure**-Includes Contribution form and contributions are tax deductible.
- ✓ **Breakout Sessions at conferences**
- ✓ **Facebook**

- ✓ **Website-**Awards and Grant applications are online

Project Grant Recipient 2025

Lori Irwin, a teacher with 20 years experience and a DKG member, presented **"The Reading Nook Adventure: A Fun Path to Literacy and Fitness as you Read and Ride"** to the group. This grant enabled Lori to purchase stationary bikes and other materials through Amazon as an incentive to motivate students to read more AR (Accelerated Reader) books. The AR program which is based on their reading level is **BIG** at her school. To determine their reading level, students take the STAR assessment three times per year. Lori encouraged them to read books on sports and exercise. Students earned the right to ride bikes (15 minutes) during their recess time after being assessed on the books they read. It was truly motivational for the students and the school as they kept an 85% average on the assessments. It helped with math lessons too! She thanked the foundation for awarding her this grant and reminded teachers to "Think outside the box" and go back to the basics.

Announcements and Questions

Carol Ann Casey, Chair, had no announcements to make and no questions were asked.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Florida DKG Educational Foundation, Inc.

Carol Ann Casey, Chair
Diane Revels, Secretary

Approved:

COMMITTEE TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FLORIDA DKG EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC. MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

Raquel House, Chair
Kathy Raiford