



Alpha Beta Bits

Delta Kappa Gamma International Society – Eta State, NC

VOLUME 13

ISSUE 1

AUGUST 2013

DATES TO REMEMBER

**April 25 - 27
2014**

Eta State
Convention
Greenville, NC

**July 28 - Aug. 1
2014**

International
Convention
Indianapolis, IN

**April 24 - 26
2015**

Eta State
Convention
Chapel Hill, NC



ALPHA BETA CHAPTER OFFICERS

**Lynn Ragsdale
President**

**Debra Avery
1st Vice President**

**Jennifer Moore
2nd Vice**

**Glenda Toler
Secretary**

**Becky Kuszmaul
Treasurer**

Message from President Lynn Ragsdale

Welcome to a new school year. I hope everyone is refreshed from their exciting summers. Many of our members are now retired so I hope you are completing things on your "bucket list." My February African safari to Tanzania and beach visit to Zanzibar was checked off my list. As we mature, we realize that time is not always on our side so we need to go and do and enjoy life to its fullest!!

My first year as President was more than I could have possibly hoped for. My committee chairman and officers went way

beyond the call of duty on helping me prepare and plan the first year. I love it when people just take off with great ideas and do their thing and you do not have to check on them. Perhaps this is typical DKG leadership in general, but I feel especially blessed with our Alpha Beta team and membership.

Our Executive Board met this summer to plan for the 2013-2014 year. Four of our members attended the DKG leadership conference this summer at William Peace College and will present a short summary at our meeting

in September. We discussed our Beginning Teacher Committee and all the great things they are doing. Terri Sessions and three committee members set up a table at the New Teachers' Institute at Selma Elementary and gave out cookies, lemonade and stories and tips from our members to over 120 new teachers.

Committee functions were discussed. Programs were finalized and ...(See Page 2.)

Lynn Ragsdale

lharloe@hotmail.com



Eta State Leadership Seminar

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Eta State sponsored a Leadership Development Seminar entitled, "**Leadership for All Ages and Stages**" It was held on **June 20-23, 2013** at William Peace University, Raleigh, N.C.

The following Alpha Beta Chapter members attended the seminar: Karen Creech, Lorine Davis, Mary Nell

Ferguson, and Amy Stanley.

The topics covered during the seminar included Parliamentary Procedure, Facilitative Leadership, We Lead When We Make Our Voices Heard, and Polish, Poise, and Panache for Mentors.



Amy Stanley & Dr. Gwen Simmons

To see a photo album of participants, go to <http://tinyurl.com/EtaStateLeadershipSeminar>.



Message From President (Cont.)

we hope to have Superintendent Ed Croom come to a meeting and explain how the budget cuts have affected Johnston County Schools. Our April meeting place has been finalized and will be held at Centenary UMC in Smithfield, located at the corner of 2nd and Market Street. Thanks to all the members who could attend this meeting. In August, Debra Avery, our First Vice President, attended the Region III President's Dinner for me. Great ideas were exchanged from the 13 regions and will be presented at the next Executive Board Meeting.

Politically, it was not a good summer. You received my summary of education bills that were passed in the General Assembly this session. Obviously they are not hearing educators we are not speaking very loud. The General Assembly goes back in session in May and we need to **SPEAK LOUDER AND BE HEARD AS PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS**. We know more than they do about what needs to be done but unless we pass on our ideas and concerns legislators will continue to pass laws they think are best for us. Get involved, call your House and Senate member and express your concerns about any of the bills that were passed last session. **SPEAK LOUDER!** **Lynn Ragsdale - lharloe@hotmail.com**

Important Dates



Our Own Superintendent's Blog

Sept. 14, 2013

Executive Board Meeting
Elon University
Elon, NC

July 28-Aug. 1, 2014

International Convention
Indianapolis, IN

July 15-18, 2015

Southeast Regional Convention
Westin Harbor Resort
Savannah, GA

July 5 - 9, 2016

International Convention
Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center,
Nashville, TN

Dr. June Atkinson posts to a blog on topics that impact NC schools, teachers and students. The blog topic is entitled, **Raised Standards, Lower Scores, Higher Achievement.**

To learn more about this topic and other topics Dr. Atkinson is passionate about, go to www.ncpublicschools.org/statessuperintendent/blog



Dr. June Atkinson
State Superintendent



Getting to Know You



Each newsletter is going to highlight Alpha Beta members who shared interesting facts about themselves so we can get to know each other a little better. Remember, if you didn't get to share your facts, please email them to Karen Creech or bring them to the next meeting. Facts about our mystery member is featured below.



Find Name of Mystery Member on **Page 4.**

WHO AM I ?

- 1. I spent the day with actor, Arnold Schwarzenegger.**
- 2. I was able to save my husband from the Russian Police.**
- 3. I got to pet a Panda in China.**
- 4. Have three pet donkeys.**



Legislative Update

Eta State Legislative
Coordinator
Lynn Ragsdale

The first five topics were identified at the **2012 Eta State convention** as focus issues for our group. The issues that follow may be of equal importance to our members.

Teacher Tenure – To be phased out for all K-12 teachers in 2018. The state would move to a contract system, with teachers getting one- to four-year contracts, depending on their proficiency. The plan also steps toward merit pay, with \$10.2 million in the second year (2014-15) to give the best teachers bonuses.

Teaching Fellows - continues the phase-out of the North Carolina Teaching Fellows program, which annually selected 500 promising high school seniors to receive four-year scholarships allowing them to graduate with little or no college debt in return for working in public schools for four years after graduation.

Private School Vouchers – provides \$10 million for the first year and \$50 million in FY2015 for private school vouchers, known as Opportunity Scholarships. Students who meet a defined income threshold and other selected eligibility criteria will be provided up to \$4,200 per year in taxpayer funding to pay for private tuition.

Pre-Kindergarten - shifts \$12.4 million from lottery receipts to add 2,500 North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Program slots. That raises the total available slots to 27,500.

School Resource Officers – provides \$7 million in elementary and middle school and \$18.6 million to implement the Excellent Public Schools Act, which includes initiatives aimed to have all students reading at grade level by the end of third grade.

Teacher-to-Student Ratios – Will be increased to determine total funding allocated for classroom teachers. The Department of Public Instruction estimates this ratio change will result in 5,200 fewer teachers.

Teach for America - spends \$6 million in each of the next two years to expand Teach for America, the national corps of recent college graduates who commit to teaching for two years in public schools after a five-week summer training course.

Teacher Assistants - Funding for teacher assistants funds will be reduced by \$120 million, or about 21 percent in FY 2014 and 19% in F2015.

Master Pay for Teachers – strips the salary boost for teachers with advanced degrees, unless required for the teaching position, beginning in FY2015

Teacher Raises - The budget includes no raises for state employees or teachers, but they will get an extra five days of vacation.

Digital Teaching Tools – State Board of Education to develop a program to instruct teachers and administrators in digital teaching tools

Cursive and Times Tables – Requires students to learn cursive and memorize multiplication tables

Home Schools – definition broadened and parents or guardians no longer have to provide instruction. Parents determining the course of instruction and additional sources of education would meet this definition

Charter Schools – establishes priority and procedures for students applying to charter schools and makes changes to what qualifies as a material revision to a charter application; creates a charter school advisory board; says that only 50% of teachers in a charter school must have a teaching license; requires those teaching math, science, social studies and language arts to be college graduates

Health Education – must now include abortion as a preventable cause of preterm birth in future pregnancies

School Buses – reduces funding for bus replacement and requires buses to be in use for 20 years or incurred 200,000 miles before qualifying for replacement funding.

Community College/UNC System

Tuition:

University -raise tuition by 12.3 percent next year for out-of-state students attending University of North Carolina campuses in Chapel Hill, Wilmington, Greensboro, and Winston-Salem. Out-of-state tuition would rise 6 percent at other campuses;

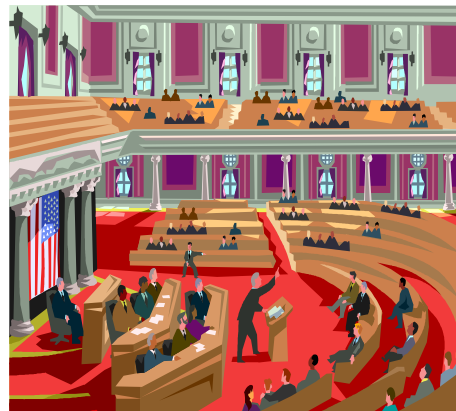
Community College - increase community college tuition this year from \$69 to \$71.50 per credit hour for residents, or a maximum of \$80 per year for full-time students.

NC Back-to-Work Program - provide \$4.8 million in one-time money for NC Back-to-Work program, a retraining program for the long-term unemployed in the community college system.

Community College Senior Waiver - eliminate the community college tuition waiver for senior citizens, a \$970,000 annual cost that had allowed residents 65 or older to take some courses free.

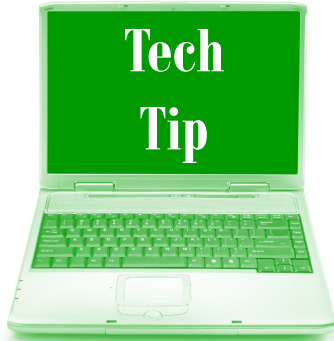
If you have questions regarding legislative information, please feel free to contact Lynn Ragsdale at: iharloe@hotmail.com.

Citations: A sampling of new North Carolina laws. (2013, July 28). The Charlotte Observer, p. 11A., North Carolina General Assembly. (2013). North Carolina General Statutes. Retrieved July 29, 2013 from www.ncleg.net/gascript/statutes/statutes.asp, and *News and Observer*, Sunday, July 28, 2013, page 13a.





Tech Tip



Projects by Jen

<http://www.projectsbyjen.com>

Math Playground

I'm happy to be able to share another Web resources recommended by Projects by Jen. The Web site is Math Playground. To access the Web site, go to <http://www.mathplayground.com/> Jen recommends this Web site because it a fun and effective way for your students practice many math skills.

The Web site has FREE thinking and logic online games. Students can explore addition, subtraction, multiplication, fractions, money, time and more through games, puzzles and mathematical toys. Math Playground is kid SAFE certified, ensuring a safe interactive environment for everyone.

Jen talked with the Math Playground designer and asked for recommendations for activities suitable for younger elementary students. The following resources are recommended:

1. **Penguin Jump**—http://www.mathplayground.com/pbj_penguin_jump_multiplication.html
2. **Jet Ski Addition**—http://www.mathplayground.com/pbj_jet_ski_addition.html
3. **Dolphin Dash**—http://www.mathplayground.com/pbj_dolphin_dash.html
4. **Snail Bob**—http://www.mathplayground.com/pbj_snail_bob_2.html
5. **Cat Around the World**—
http://www.mathplayground.com/pbj_cat_around_the_world.html
6. **Snoring Wild West**—http://www.mathplayground.com/pbj_snoring_wild_west.html

There are resources for middle school and high school students on the Web site as well. Videos are available on the Web site also to reinforce math skills.

I hope you will take a few minutes to check out the Web site. The math activities are aligned to the Common Core. As I mentioned, everything on the Web site is FREE, but there are advertisements on the site. This is so the Web resources can remain free.

Reprinted with permission from PBJ Newsletter Issue 134.

Change 4 Literacy

The Literacy Committee would like to remind everyone to bring any extra change you would like to donate to put in the collection jar.

The funds collected will go toward the **Johnson Co. Partnership for Children** or **Mother Read**.



Alpha Beta Chapter Minutes



Please read the minutes from the last meeting before each meeting.

Did you guess right? The Mystery Member highlighted on Page 2 is Mary Nell Ferguson.

Personal & Professional Development



HAVE YOU MET “TED”?

TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to “**Ideas Worth Spreading**”. It started out (in 1984) as a conference bringing together people from three worlds: **Technology, Entertainment, Design**. Since then its scope has become ever broader. Along with two annual conferences -- the TED Conference on the West Coast each spring, and the TEDGlobal conference in Edinburgh UK each summer -- TED includes the award-winning TED Talks video site, the Open Translation Project and TED Conversations, the inspiring TED Fellows and TEDx programs, and the annual TED Prize. –Read more about TED at <http://www.ted.com/pages/about>

At TED, you will find plenty of interesting topics and lots of room for new understandings. Teachers all over the country are incorporating TED talks in to their instruction.

As key women educators, Delta Kappa Gamma members have a role to play in education reform. Educators are under fire constantly in the U.S. and our profession needs spokespersons. In the spirit of growth, mentioned in this month’s Presidents Message, we’d like to share with you the world of TED talks.

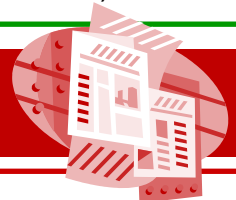
As you reflect on creative ways to share your knowledge with our chapter and state, consider this talk on education by Sir Ken Robinson.

Ken Robinson Says Schools Kill Creativity

http://www.ted.com/talks/ken_robinson_says_schools_kill_creativity.html

Shared with permission from **Gamma Eta News—Region III – Eta State**— Angie Morris, Editor

Eta State News Distribution



At the 2013 Eta State Conference a proposal was presented regarding the **Eta State News (ESN)**. In an effort to become more digital and save state funds, the ESN will phase out printed copies being distributed to members. The proposal for the transition will begin 2013-2014.

The good news is Alpha Beta will make sure copies of ESN are distributed to our members who do not have email accounts. Beginning at our September meeting copies of ESN will be available to be picked up. Members who are unable to attend the meeting will receive the ESN in the mail.

Proposed Timeline to Achieve Total Electronic Distribution of the Eta State News

2013-2014

Two print and two electronic copies

2014-2015

One print and three electronic copies

2015-2016

Four electronic copies

2016-2017

Re-evaluation



News From Eta State President

I was privileged to attend the 2013 Eta State Convention to see the installation of our new officers. I was especially pleased to be in attendance because one of my most favorite people in the world became our Eta State President, Pat Taylor.

Pat and I go back a long way. We taught at the same elementary school in Nash Rocky Mount Schools. I began teaching in 1987 and was so pleased to have Pat not only as a colleague, but a mentor, but most importantly as a friend. So you can imagine my excitement to have her as our State President.

Pat's theme for her term is **"Together, We Are Stronger - Committing, Collaborating, Celebrating!"**

This biennium, Pat shares there will be three ships sailing in Eta State. The first ship is **"The Eta State Membership."** She wants each chapter to continue our commitment to support beginning teachers. The theme for this ship is **"Mentoring Members (M&Ms)."**

The second ship is **"The Eta State Leadership."** Collaborate with the other ships is key to accomplishing the goals of developing courageous, committed leaders to serve and lead. The leadership seminars and activities we provide our members will help foster present and future leaders.

is **"The Eta State Genuine Spiritual Fellowship"** is the third ship. Reaching out to our members on a personal level and lending a helping hand can be one of the ways we can accomplish spiritual fellowship.

I want to challenge each of you to help our Chapter to accomplish these goals set by Pat. I know our Chapter will only become stronger as a result. To access Pat's Web page, go to: <http://deltakappagamma.org/NC/Presidents%20page.htm>.



Patricia Taylor
Eta State President
2013-2015

Let's Tweet



Tweets by
[@Eta_State](https://twitter.com/Eta_State)



Eta State Convention 2013

The 79th Eta State Convention was held on **April 26-28, 2013**. Both Lynn and I were able to attend the convention to represent Alpha Beta Chapter.

The theme for the convention was **"Transforming Our Traditions."** The program for the convention was so comprehensive and I benefitted from each session I was able to attend.

There was a very wonderful ceremony in honor of members who had passed. Both Lynn and I attended the **Ceremony of Remembrance** and were very happy both Iris and Sue were honored.

Our Chapter received several awards to include, Web site excellence and newsletter excellence. President Little sent us congratulations on receiving the **"Distinctive Recognition"** for our Chapter. She said this recognition demonstrates we value those qualities that make for a "healthy" chapter. She wants to encourage us to continue reviewing those items as we move our chapter forward.



Members of Delta Kappa Gamma Region III
Who Attended Eta State Convention

Shared with permission from Nancy Tunstall, Region III Director.



News From DKG President

Dr. Helms wants to make sure there are no preconceived ideas that our organization is a top down hierarchy. Instead she believes the members of nearly 2500 chapters help to make decisions regarding our governing documents, certain policies and rules.

Our leaders are elected by chapter members in the 80 state organizations which makes us a member-driven organization. That ultimately impacts the decision being made at the international level of our organization.

At the international level, there is representation on the International Executive Board from of all state organization presidents. the state organization president casts the votes on behalf of the members of the chapters in her state organization.

All members should consider themselves a vital part of the international Society of women educators impacting education worldwide. As a Alpha Beta Chapter member, I feel confident I am well represented at the international level.



Dr. Beverly Helms
International President
2012-2014

To read **Dr. Helms' Blog** go to: beverlyhelms.blogspot.com

Reprinted from *DKG News*, July/August, 2013, p. 2, 3.

DKG Scholarships



dkgef.org

The **Educational Foundation** is celebrating their **Fiftieth Anniversary**. To commmentate this special anniversary 50 \$1,000 grants will be announced during the 2014 International Convention. The awards are for classroom, school, or community educational projects. The application, available at dkgef.org, has a **November 15th** submission deadline.

The Educational Foundation has awarded more than \$3.3 million to members and non-members since 1964.

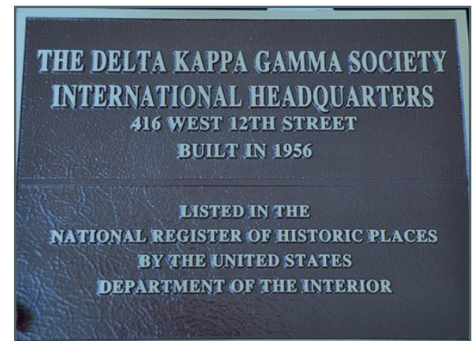
If you are looking for funding to participate in professional development events sponsored by organizations or institutions other than Delta Kappa Gamma, the **Cornetet Individual Professional Development** awards for up to \$2,000. Go to dkgef.org to download the application. There are several deadlines of **May 1st**, **September 1st**, and **February 1st**. Members and non-members are eligible.

Additional grants are provided by the Educational Foundation for new and renewed projects. The Foundation's mission is to support intercultural understanding and to encourage standards of excellence in education. Projects that are selected impact persons of all ages and demonstrates the mission of the Foundation.

Reprinted from *DKG News*, July/August, 2013, p. 6, 7.

Society Headquarter - Historical Place

Have you ever wondered how buildings or locations become part of the National Register of Historic Places? It is a process that involves research and time. First is an important question- is the property old enough and still looks close to the original? If the property is 50 years old or more and maintains the integrity of its era, the next step in the process becomes available. Then a property is nominated, reviewed, goes through an evaluation and after meeting rigorous standards may be granted the distinction. Society Headquarters in Austin, Texas, opened in the downtown area in 1956.



Dr. Beverly Helms Accepting Historical Plaque

The interior has been decorated since the original pink and blue color scheme but remains much the same in furnishings. In 2012, the building was recognized as a property of the National Register of Historic Places. Dr. Beverly Helms, international president and Corlea Plowman, executive director, will work with Phyllis Hickey, operation services administrator, Nita Scott, membership services administrator and Dr. Linda Eller, information services administrator, to establish the ideal location for the distinguished plaque. When the plaque displaying the honor is installed, all members and employees can celebrate.

Shared with permission from Glenda Carter, Editor, Gamma Rays— Gamma Iota, Wake County, Region III



Let's Make the Connection

Many of you connect with your family and friends through Facebook. Have you thought about connecting with fellow women educators not only in North Carolina but around the world? If not, stop and think of the benefits. Both DKG and Eta State take advantage of the power of Facebook.

Not only are announcements, blog posts, and events distributed on Facebook, but connections are made both at the international and state level of the Society. What are you waiting for? Don't forget to connect with your fellow educators who are Alpha Beta Chapter members as well.

DKG

www.facebook.com/dkgorg

Eta State

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/EtaState/>

Alpha Beta Chapter

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/alphabeta.societyinternational>

Jan. – June Birthdays



A special **“Birthday Wish”** from your Alpha Beta Sisters

September	October	November
Mary Nell Ferguson – 4	Glenda Toler - 4	Karen Parker - 2
Ramona Cash – 5	Mary Ann Lee – 22	Janice White - 5
Dorothy Driver – 6	Karen Creech – 22	Denise Byrd - 9
Becky Kuszmaul – 11	Terri Sessoms – 25	Eloise Bonds - 1
Jennifer Bare – 18		Barbara Barnes - 14
Carol Blakely – 19		Sonya Kiser - 28
Mary Helen Wyatt – 23		
Laura Faye Canaday – 24		
Betty Ferrell – 28		



December	January	February
Susan Auman - 5	Carolyn Riddick - 1	Mary Helen Sills - 26
Margaret Lee Walker - 6	Debra Avery - 4	
Leona Parrish - 10	Joyce Matthews - 13	
Abby Salas - 15	Cathy Cox - 16	
Martha Bradshaw - 27	Eve Creech - 17	
	Jennifer Swartz - 27	
	Ann Parrish - 28	
	Glenda Hales - 31	

SPECIAL NOTE: If you have a birthday in the months listed above and you do not see your name in the list, please contact Karen at karen.creech@ncpublicschools.gov. She will make sure you are included in the list.

Purpose and Mission



The Delta Kappa
Gamma Society
International

promotes professional and
personal growth of women
educators and excellence in
education.

Alpha Beta Chapter
Organized April 19, 1952

TO UNITE women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship.

TO HONOR women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education.

TO ADVANCE the professional interest and position of women in education.

TO INITIATE, ENDORSE, AND SUPPORT desirable legislation or other suitable endeavors in the interests of education and of women educators.

TO ENDOW scholarships to aid outstanding women educators in pursuing graduate study and to grant fellowships to non-member women educators.

TO STIMULATE the personal and professional growth of members and to encourage their participation in appropriate programs of action.

TO INFORM the members of current economic, social, political, and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society.



Thoughts and Prayers



We have several members or their family members who are not doing well. I know they will appreciate you keeping them in your thoughts and prayers.

Dorothy Driver	Margaret Walker
Joyce Matthews	Rose Walker
Bess Ragsdale	Deborah Woodruff

If you would like to add someone to this list, please contact Karen at:
karen.creech@ncpublicschools.gov



If you have an idea for an article or information you would like to see added to the newsletter, please contact the editor, **Karen Creech**, at
karen.creech@ncpublicschools.gov

