



# Alpha Beta Bits

Delta Kappa Gamma International Society – Eta State, NC

VOLUME 13

ISSUE 3

JANUARY 2014

## 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 President**

**Glenda Toler  
Secretary**

**Becky Kuszmaul  
Treasurer**

## Message from President Lynn Ragsdale

Happy New Year Alpha Beta Sisters,

As we become older time seems to pass quickly, rather than slowly. It is important that we take time to count our blessings and ask if we have made time for others who are not as fortunate as we have been. We realize how important our families, friends and Alpha Beta sisters are to us and are thankful. **VOLUNTEER** your time!

I recently found a book that was given to my Mother when she was

chairman of her church circle, sometime in the 1970s. It is called the *Treasure Chest* and I would like to share an inspiring quote on happiness by Storm Jameson. "Happiness comes of the capacity to feel deeply, to enjoy simply, to think freely, to risk life, to be needed." **Be HAPPY today!**

We have many events going on in DKG this spring. Our annual convention is close this

year, in Greenville, and I hope many of our members will be able to attend for at least one day.

There is a pre-conference on Friday morning that Dr. Elaine Jenkins is presenting on "*Using Courage to Advocate Professionally and Personally.*" I will be on the panel for this pre-conference and the... **(See Page 2)**

**Lynn Ragsdale**

[lharloe@hotmail.com](mailto:lharloe@hotmail.com)



## Honoring 40+ Years of Service

Our Alpha Beta Chapter is so fortunate to have members who have served DKG for **40+ years**. We will be honoring these members with a special program at our meeting on **Tuesday February 25th**.

We have two guest speakers who will attend this special meeting, **Johnston Co. Superintendent, Dr. Ed Croom** and **Pat Taylor, Eta State President**.

The program will include the

presentation of certificates for years of service and pins for the 50+ years of service. The following members will be honored at the meeting:

### 40–49 Years

Laura Canaday, Freddie Creech, Dorothy Driver, Ann Parrish, Bess Ragsdale, Maylene Sanders, Mary Sauls, and Rose Walker.

### 50 + Years

Eloise Bonds, Ramona Cash, Vivia Creech, and Margaret Walker.

Please join us for this special program.





## Message From President (Cont.)

number of participants is limited to thirty. The convention itself has many sessions that are advantageous to teachers.

Dr. Croom is speaking at our February meeting as part of the program to recognize members who have served DKG for 40+ years. The election of new officers will be in April.

The General Assembly will go back into session in May and we need to keep abreast of what their plans are for education this year. It seems a pay raise is a big possibility but keep sending those emails to your State Representative and State Senator. There is still much concern about how superintendents are going to select ONLY 25% of their teachers to receive a pay raise with a four year contract. Let them know how you feel about this issue. Stay **INVOLVED!** Looking forward to an exciting spring with my Alpha Beta sisters. **Lynn Ragsdale**



## Health Tip of the Month

This health tip is going to address your **"fun factor."** With all of the pressures you face daily to include deadlines, bills, and busy schedules, most of us don't get to cut loose and/or get silly. So here is your assignment for the month:

Carve out some time for playtime. Find something that makes you feel like you're floating free, happy, and totally absorbed in your own play land. Even take time to learn something new along the way.

<http://health.yahoo.net/tips/how-to-be-fun-have-fun-and-stay-young>

## Fundraisers



I want to thank everyone that brought items to the Show and Sell. We had a lot of wonderful items to choose from to including scarves, home-baked goods, and jewelry.

Just as important I want to thank everyone who purchased items as well as raffle tickets.

We collected **\$3.07** for **Change for Literacy**, **raffle** collected **\$149.00** and the **Show and Sell** collected **\$639.50**.

The Show and Sell funds will go toward our Scholarship Fund and the raffle funds will go toward Membership/Awards Fund.



## 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.

**WHO  
AM  
I ?**

1. **Can solve Rubik's Cube.**
2. **Love my 9 1/2 year old cat.**
3. **Enjoy Zumba.**
4. **Search <http://www.pinterest.com> often for great crafts and recipes.**



Find name of "Mystery Member" on Page 3.



# Tech Tip

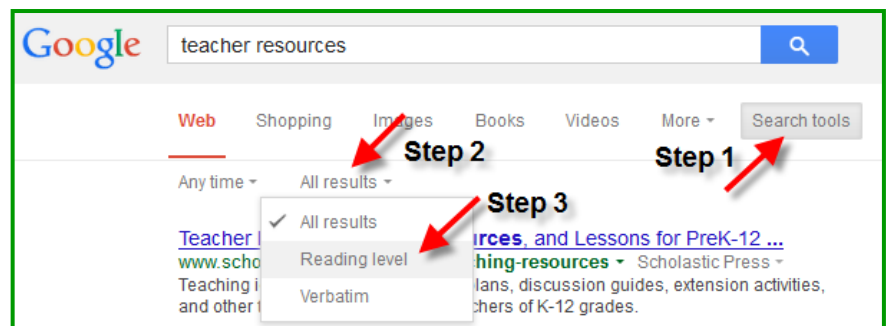


## Google Search – Filter by Reading Level

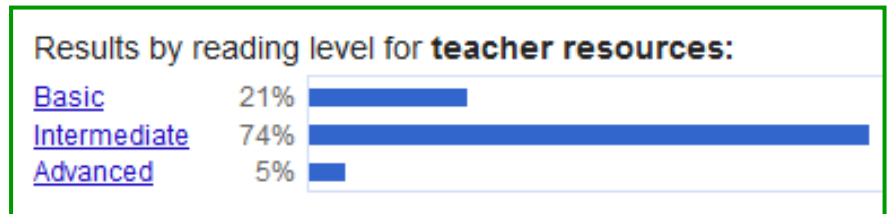
I have discovered a very valuable resource entitled, **Tammy's Technology Tips for Teachers**, I wanted to share with you. The resource is being developed by Tammy Worchester, a distinguished educator, author, and presenter with over twenty-five years of educational experience.

Tammy's Web site provides a collection of very valuable teacher resources. I want to highlight one of the resources for doing Google searches. I've included the steps below. Visit her site for more resources.

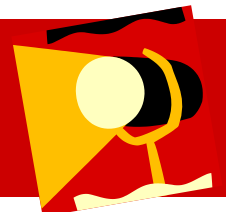
1. Go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com).
2. Search for something i.e. teacher resources.
3. Click the **"Search Tools"** button.
4. Next, click the **"All Results"** button.
5. Then click **"Reading Level."**



**Tammy's Technology Tips  
for Teachers**  
[http://tammyworchester.com/  
teachers-can-use-google-forms.html](http://tammyworchester.com/teachers-can-use-google-forms.html)

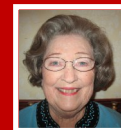


## Look Who's In the Spotlight?



Two of our members are in the spotlight, Mary Helen Sills and Freddie Creech.

Mary Helen was awarded the **2013 Educator of the Year Award** at the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet sponsored by the Benson Area Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, January 23, 2014. Her award was presented by **American Legion Banner Post 109 Ladies' Auxiliary**. Mary Helen teaches 2nd grade at Meadow School.



**Freddie Creech**  
JCS Living  
Legend



**Mary Helen Sills**  
2013 Educator  
of the Year

Freddie Creech was one of four former Johnston County Schools' educators honored at the Parent **Advisory Council** dinner as a **"Living Legend"**. Freddie promoted congeniality in her classroom as a teacher and in her office as a guidance counselor for 36 years. She believed it was important to care for and show respect for children and she practiced these principles her entire career.

Permission to reprint from JCS and Benson Area Chamber of Commerce.

**Did you guess right? The "Mystery Member" highlighted on Page 2 is Jennifer Swartz.**



# News From Eta State President

President Taylor wants to share the **TOP 10 Reasons** she thinks Eta State members will want to celebrate 2014:

10. It is the 80th year anniversary of our Eta State Founders, all recognized leaders of education in North Carolina.
9. Eta State Chapters and leaders will be honored at the 2014 state convention.
8. Eta State members will learn strategies to advocate for personal and professional issues!
7. A variety of workshop sessions will be offered at the Eta State convention.
6. Eta State will continue working towards the establishment of the first Eta State Educational Foundation!
5. Eta State will honor new state scholarship recipients, international scholarships, and international grant awards at the state conference.
4. DKG International Society Latin American Representative, Monica Ochoa, will deliver news from our international headquarters.
3. New Eta State leaders and regional directors will attend training across the state.
2. The 2014 International Convention is in Indianapolis and it will bring with it opportunities to vote on new proposed constitutional amendments to the International Standing Rules.

1. ***Eta State members will want to celebrate 2014 in Eta State because it is another year of quality fellowship and networking with Delta Kappa Gamma sisters in sisterhood, faith, and support of one another as leaders in education!***

Follow President Taylor's at at: <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)

## Golden Key Award



It's time for **Golden Key Award**. Nominations. One member from each region has been honored with this award at the last two conventions.

This award is designed to recognize an outstanding members who works hard to keep their chapter going without personal glory or gain for themselves.

I was honored to have been chosen as a nominee to represent our Chapter for this award last year. I will never be able to express in words what this meant to me.

I know we have members who deserve this award. Please share the name of a member with President Ragsdale so we can have someone from our Chapter represent Region 3.

All applications must be postmarked by **March 1, 2014**.

## Update Email with DKG



As a valued DKG member, we want to make sure you are kept informed. To make that possible, DKG needs to keep accurate records.

If you have changed your email address, go to <https://www.dkg.org/content/change-address-form-27-submit-online> and update your membership record using this interactive online form.

## Eta State News



Watch for the winter edition of **Eta State News** online the middle of February. This issue will contain news and updates on the April convention.

This edition will also be mailed, so watch for it in your mailboxes approximately the third week in February.



# News From DKG President

President Helms wrote an article entitled, "**What's Love Got to Do With It?**" In the article she shares how invaluable being a member of DKG has been for her. She shares it has impacted her as a person, educator, administrator and especially as a woman. She believes we would have less members dropping from DKG if every member had the same image in her mind and feeling in her heart as she does when DKG is mentioned.

She shared one the reasons she values her membership in DKG as she has been given the opportunity to **interact with multi-generations of members** in her own chapter and across the state. She believes she has gotten the **nurturing and support** she needs from DKG. **Leadership opportunities** is another reason she values her membership in DKG as well as **professional and personal growth**. She believes the networking she is able to do is not about the number of connections she makes, but the **relationships**.

At the end of the article she addresses this question, "**What's Love Got to Do With It?**" with strong conviction: **absolutely everything**. She believes **love, support, nurturing and mentoring members** has everything to do with our future as an organization. She challenges each of you to ask yourselves what value DKG brings to you personally and professionally. **Do we have the same convictions? What will you say when asked what value does Alpha Beta bring to you?**



**Dr. Beverly Helms**  
**International President**  
**2012-2014**

To read **Dr. Helms' Blog** go to: [beverlyhelms.blogspot.com](http://beverlyhelms.blogspot.com)

Reprinted from *DKG News*, Jan.-Feb. 2014



## Officers for 2014-2016

The 2014-2016 nominations are being announced by the International Nominations Committee. The elections will be held at the **2014 International Convention in Indianapolis**.

I would like to encourage you to spend some time looking at the highly qualified candidates we have for each of the DKG positions. As I looked at each candidate I was so proud to see all of the time and commitment these candidates have already committed to DKG.

Many have received achievement awards from their states, scholarships, and distinguished educator awards. I think you will be impressed as well.

To see the list of candidates go to <https://www.dkg.org/content/dkg-news-janfeb-2014> for a copy of the **DKG News for Jan/Feb 2014**. Look on **Page 4, Nominees**.

## Membership Tips Strengthen Chapters



One of the goals of DKG is to help chapters to remain strong. In the **DKG News** this month there is an article that provides a list of ways to strengthen chapters. I wanted to share some of the tips from the article, but ask you to consider them from the perspective of strengthening our Alpha Beta Chapter specifically.

- **Attend a regional, international, and/or a state organization meeting.** The Eta State Conference is in Greenville, NC April 25-27, 2014.
- **Apply for leadership training opportunities.** Eta State offered a leadership conference this past summer at William Peace University. Look for future leadership conferences.
- **Volunteer to be on a state organization or an international committee.** Make sure you are an active member of one of our Chapter committees.

Visit our Chapter Web site at: <http://www.deltakappagamma.org/NC-alphabeta/index.htm>



# Jan. – June Birthdays

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

January	February	March
Carolyn Riddick - 1	Mary Helen Sills - 26	Sabrina Dees - 2
Debra Avery - 4		Allette Hale - 19
Joyce Matthews - 13		Renee Wiggs - 28
Cathy Cox - 16		Maylene Sanders - 30
Eve Creech - 17		
Jennifer Swartz - 27		
Ann Parrish - 28		
Glenda Hales - 31		

April	May	June
Freddie Creech - 1	Terri Dickens - 1	Sandy Smith - 1
Bess Ragsdale - 14	Camille Boone - 6	Amy Stanley - 8
Frances Warren - 14	Denise Luper - 7	Noela Sue Woodall - 9
Olive Cooke - 16	Trudy Farnell - 8	Kathy Hamilton - 13
Yvette Davis - 27	Rose Walker - 11	Tucker Twisdale - 19
	Mary Sauls - 12	Peggy Batten - 19
	Jennifer Moore - 13	Lynn Ragsdale - 25
	Karen Hicks - 17	
	Sybil Edwards - 18	
	Lorine Davis - 23	

**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](mailto: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.

Laura Faye Canaday	Bess Ragsdale
Dorothy Driver	Margaret Walker
Joyce Matthews	Rose Walker

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

