



Alpha Beta Bits

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International – Eta State, NC

VOLUME 17

ISSUE 1

JULY/AUG. 2017

DATES TO REMEMBER

**April 27 - 29,
2018**

Eta State
Convention
Charlotte, NC

**September 9,
2017**

Eta State Fall Executive
Board Meeting
Elon, NC

**July 16 - 20,
2018**

DKG International
Convention
Austin, TX



ALPHA BETA CHAPTER OFFICERS

Lorine Davis
President

Denise Byrd
1st Vice President

Mary Helen Sills
2nd Vice President

Jennifer Bare
Secretary

Becky Kuszmaul
Treasurer

Message from President Lorine Davis

There is an excitement in the air this school year for Johnston County Educators! Our Opening Convocation at Five County Stadium was hot, informative, and inspiring. My thanks to our JCPS superintendent, Dr. Ross Renfrow, for his vision of inspiring school leaders to give our very best to our students each day. Quick reality check: I don't think we've been holding back, but a bit of positivity such as the convocation does boost one's attitude.

Board Chair Mike Wooten announced a 1% increase in our

supplement. It doesn't sound like much until it's put in perspective. The Board of Education members voted to take \$1.5 million from the fund balance to make that happen this year, even though Johnston County didn't fund the supplement increase. That's \$1.5 million from savings that the Board will have to figure out how to duplicate annually – and the "savings account" can't support it long term. This year it's a relatively small gift. However, if we get the projected State salary increases, that 1% will be a real gift in

the long run.

Dr. Renfrow introduced our key note speaker, Curtis Zimmerman, and one hour passed very quickly as he kept us engaged and inspired. I must say that I will be forever grateful that I didn't excel at "Simon Says" and become the center of attention, learning to juggle in front of thousands. Mr. Zimmerman drove his point home with his activities – as teachers we must celebrate the failures that lead to the... **See Page 2.**

**President
Lorine Davis
2016-18**



"Schools to Watch"



The National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform identifies North Carolina middle schools to be named **Schools to Watch**.

These middle schools' emphasis is on strong academics, sensitivity to young adolescents' needs and interests, and commitment to providing all students equal access to a high-quality education resulted in the well-

deserved recognition.

Middle Schools are recognized for a three-year period, at the end of which they must apply for re-designation and demonstrate that they are continuing to meet the National Forum's rigorous criteria.

One of 11 middle schools in NC re-designated

as **Schools to Watch** is one in Johnston County, **McGee's Crossroads Middle Schools**.

One of our members, **Jennifer Swartz** was an Assistant Principal at McGee's Crossroads for 2016-17.

Congratulations to the staff on this wonderful accomplishment.



Message From President (Cont.)

accomplishments. Both are usually required for learning to take place.

Our Alpha Beta meetings are always full of energy! I attribute that to what each of you brings to our meetings. We truly care about each other and enjoy celebrating accomplishments and promotions. Since we meet only four times each year, there are hugs and lots of "catching up" to do prior to the business meeting. The business of documenting our accomplishments and voting on how to proceed takes time, but the business is important to the health of the organization. Without the business meeting, we're a very successful supper club!

The Executive Board will meet at 5:15 pm prior to our September meeting in order to vote on a few items of business. Although we haven't had the formal meeting, I've solicited opinions and it appears we're already on the same page. We'll make it official on September 26, 2017 at 5:15 pm at First Baptist Church.

Good news! **All of our meetings this year will be at First Baptist Church in Smithfield.** It's centrally located and has plenty of parking. We all feel safe there and we know where we are going, taking away the angst of finding a new site, as well as helping us be sure of our travel time and being able to arrive on time. The room is cozy and is a great size for our numbers. Golden Corral will continue to cater – they have done a fabulous job. Now, First Baptist will set up tables for us, but the previously assigned hostess committee members will need to arrive early to tweak table arrangements and to help with table clothes and decorations that Golden Corral provides. I will send out information to the hostess committee members so that you know our needs ahead of time and can plan what time you'll need to arrive.

I encourage each of you to respond to Treasurer Becky Kuszmaul's correspondence and pay dues as early as possible. There will be a special drawing for those who pay early – get your name in the pot!

The Nominations Committee has been charged with beginning the process of determining leadership for the next biennium. I cannot adequately express my gratitude to all of you who answered the call in the past, giving of your time and talents to make Alpha Beta Chapter the powerhouse it has become. **We are strong women leaders who have answered the calling.** For those of you who are asked to join the ranks of leadership beginning next July, I can assure you that we will stand with you and assist in getting the jobs done. Everyone has been supportive and encouraging during my presidency – I'm certain it had more to do with supporting Alpha Beta than the person filling the role. Don't get me wrong. I have been and continue to be amazingly supported. But I have no doubts that the next leaders will receive the same support. We all want our leaders to be successful and will help all we can to ensure that success.

For our newest members, help us to help you become more involved. We want this to be your professional society. We'll share the way we do things at this point in time, then you jump in and help shape the future of Alpha Beta. We've certainly made changes since I've been involved and I know that will continue. The core values and the focus of DKG and Alpha Beta have *not* changed. The way we go about getting the work done and the meetings themselves have morphed through time and will continue to fit the needs of our members. Flexibility has allowed Alpha Beta Chapter to flourish since our Charter on April 19, 1952. We want Alpha Beta to flourish as long as there are leading women educators!

Forever grateful to be a part of Alpha Beta Chapter, Lorine— alphabetapreslorine@gmail.com

Alpha Beta Chapter Minutes/Treasurer's Report



Please read the minutes and treasurer's report before each meeting.

Upcoming Alpha Beta Chapter Meetings

Sept. 26, 2017

Nov. 28, 2017

Feb. 20, 2018

May 1, 2018



First Baptist Church in Smithfield, NC



Don't forget, you can donate to our **Alpha Beta Chapter Endowment Fund** in honor and/or memory of one of our Sisters. See copies of the form on **Page 13**.



New Inductee Ceremony

Alpha Beta is so excited to welcome ten new members to our chapter. The experience and expertise of these women educators will continue to make our chapter even stronger. Each new member brings a special talent that will help us as women educators continue to support Johnston County Schools and make them stronger.

A special ceremony was held to induct the following new members: Heather Barbour, Pamela Batchelor, Jenny Batten-Wiley, Amy Creed, Morgan Dickens, Leigh Anne Nichols, Heather Pennica, Ashley Radford, Jennifer Roberts, and Kristy Stephenson.



Let's Stay Connected



Alpha Beta Chapter NC

🔒 Closed Group

Joined ▾

➦ Share

✓ Notifications

Lights, Camera, Action!



We have a celebrity among us. As **Public Information Officer for Johnston County Schools (JCS)**, **Tracey Peedin-Jones** is featured in a video where she gives an update on the JCS facilities renovations.

She seems to be very comfortable on camera and looks like she is having a lot of fun kidding around with JCS Superintendent, Dr. Ross Renfrow, while filming this footage.

The video highlights some of the projects taking place at several schools. The purpose of the video is to ensure all stakeholders that students will have a comfortable environment so they can focus on learning.



Tracey Peedin-Jones, Public Information Officer

Appointment to ECU Board of Visitors

Congratulations to Dr. **Johna Lee Faulconer**, who was recently appointed to serve on the **East Carolina Board of Visitors**.



Dr. Johna Faulconer

The East Carolina University Board of Visitors role is to advance the university's general, educational, research and service missions through focused personal involvement leadership, advocacy and the active investment of time, talent and resources. Board members are selected for their passion for East Carolina University and a desire to help the university and its constituents and programs succeed. Faulconer shared, "ECU has a time-honored tradition of service and as a proud East Carolina University alumna, I am honored by this appointment to serve ECU and my fellow alumni as we work together to insure East Carolina University is recognized for what the university has and will continue to achieve."

To read more, go to the Smithfield **Chamber of Commerce Web page** at:

<http://www.smithfieldselma.com/news/details/faulconer-appointed-to-the-east-carolina-university-board-of-visitors>

Advocating for Students



One of our members, **Mary Nell Ferguson**, addressed the Johnston County Board of Education to express her concerns about the direction of some local schools.

Mary Nell is a retired principal of Cleveland Elementary School and said her concern was on the elementary schools in the I-95 corridor. She shared data to show where there are economically disadvantaged students.

"I want it to be heard loud and clear that my concerns are not our principals, not the teachers, not the facilities, but the inequities of the Smithfield schools as compared to Cleveland-Clayton schools." She suggested school leaders consider magnet schools as an option to improve Smithfield area schools.

She also asked the board to examine each school and plan a unique, proven solution for it. She wanted the board to take time to answer the "Why" question. Why, through the years, have parents transferred their children out of the Smithfield-Selma area schools?"

We are so fortunate to still have Mary Nell looking out for the welfare of all of the students in Johnston County.



Mary Nell Ferguson Addressing Johnston County Board of Education

To read the whole story go to:

<http://jocoreport.com/former-educator-concerned-about-smithfield-selma-area-schools/>

Newly Appointed Principal



Jennifer Swartz,
Principal West Johnston
High School

We are so proud of **Jennifer Swartz** on her new appointment as principal of West Johnston High School. She has a lot of history at West Johnston. She began teaching in 1995 at South Johnston and in 2002, she helped open West Johnston as an English teacher: 9th grade, 11th grade, and AP English Language & Composition. She also served as an adviser to the Sapiientia Chapter of the National Honor Society. In 2007, she moved into a lead teacher role and later served as an assistant principal starting in 2008 after earning her MSA from NC State University. In October 2012, Jennifer was awarded Johnston County Schools Assistant Principal of the Year.

She moved away from West Johnson for the 2016-2017 school year to take the position of Assistant Principal at West Johnston's primary feeder school, McGee's Crossroads Middle School. But now she is back at West Johnston.

We understand that the West Johnson staff is so excited to have her back on campus. I know that she will be a great leader.

Legislative Update



Lynn Ragsdale, one of our most active chapter members, is also a member of the **Eta State Educational Law and Policy Committee**. She worked closely with the Educational Law and Policy Committee Chairman, **Susan Phipps**, to survey Eta State members, who were asked for their top educational priorities. The data from members would be shared with NC legislators to help them make informed decisions for legislation involving educational issues. The priorities include:

- ☑ **DKG encourages the General Assembly to increase salaries for all educators.**
- ☑ DKG feels strongly that NC must continue to provide medical and retirement benefits for all teachers and state employees
- ☑ **While we believe in accountability, our members strongly encourage a reduction in the amount of testing.**
- ☑ Our membership believes that any schools that receive state tax dollars should be held equally accountable to the state for student learning
- ☑ **DKG encourages the General Assembly to increase per-pupil funding.**
- ☑ Our membership opposes the allocation of public funds for private and religious school vouchers.
- ☑ **DKG is opposed to the current A-F system of grading public schools.**
- ☑ Our members urge that the number of charter schools in North Carolina be limited to 170.



Standing from left to right: Lynn Ragsdale, Eta State Educational Law and Policy Committee Member; Susan Phipps, Eta State Educational Law and Policy Committee Chairman; Senator Brent Jackson; and Connie Savell, Eta State President

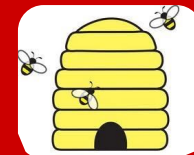


Delta Kappa Gamma

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



Saving the Bees



THEY CAN RECOGNIZE HUMAN FACES

Here are a few more interesting facts about honeybees. I hope you will find the information intriguing.

"Honeybees make out faces the same way we do. They take parts—like eyebrows, lips, and ears—and cobble them together to make out the whole face. It's called **"configural processing,"** and it might help computer scientists improve face recognition technology, the *New York Times* reports."

<http://mentalfloss.com/article/53691/13-fascinating-facts-about-bees>

Sharing Books and Magazines

The Literacy Committee would like to ask members to bring books and magazines to each of our meetings.



The books are being collected for the Harbor House and the magazines are being distributed to the laundry mats in the Johnston County area. The goal of these two projects is to promote reading. Thanks in advance for your contributions.



Show me the Money!

At our last meeting we had great participation in the raffle. We raised over **\$200**. There were more prizes available than usual. One of the biggest hits was the original painting done by our very own Ramona Cash.

Members are asked to contribute any loose change, happy dollars or money you would spend on food donations i.e. Supporting Beginning Teachers project to our raffles.

The funds collected from the raffles will be used towards several chapter projects.



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 ?**

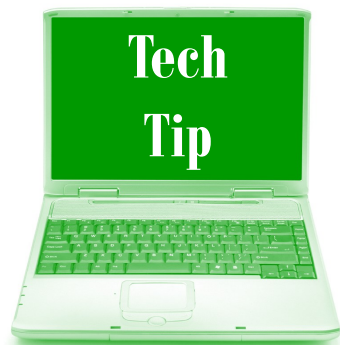
1. I ring English Handbells and once I rang with the Raleigh Ringers when they recorded a demo music.
2. I was a Girl Scout from Brownies to a senior Girl Scout. I earned my first class which was the highest level available when I was young. This was prior to Gold Awards.



Find Name of Mystery Member on
Page 7.



Tech Tip



LibiVox

<https://librivox.org/>

LibriVox

Here is a new Web 2.0 tool that is rated as one of the top 10 Web 2.0 tools for teachers. It is called, **LibriVox**. The main objective of this Web 2.0 tool is, **"To make all books in the public domain available, for free, in audio format on the internet."**

LibriVox recruits volunteers to record chapters of books in the public domain, and then they release the audio files back onto the net for free. All our audio is in the public domain, so you may use it for whatever purpose you wish.

There are several options for listening. The first step is to get the audio files into your own computer. There are two main ways to do this:

1. Thrice-Weekly Podcast

LibiVox podcasts one book at a time, with three audio installments a week. To subscribe to the podcast, copy and paste this URL into your podcatcher: <http://librivox.org/podcast.xml>

If you use iTunes, the subscription will happen automatically if you click on this URL:

<itpc://librivox.org/podcast.xml>

2. Catalog

Visit our catalog and download books you wish to listen to. Visit the [Help Page](#) for options for searching and browsing the catalog. Once you find a book you like, there are many ways to play the files: iTunes, winamp, windows media player.

Browse the Catalog

	Author
	Title
	Genre/Subject
	Language

Volunteering for LibriVox

It is so easy to volunteer for LibriVox. It does not require any experience with recording or audio engineering or acting or public speaking. All you need is a computer, a microphone, some free recording software, and your own voice. You don't need to audition, but they do suggest a 1-Minute Test recording just to check your setup. We'll accept you no matter what you sound like.

To record your **1-Minute Test**—http://wiki.librivox.org/index.php/1-Minute_Test

Librivox Fundamental Principles

- ☒ Librivox is a non-commercial, non-profit and ad-free project.
- ☒ Librivox donates its recordings to the public domain.
- ☒ Librivox is powered by volunteers
- ☒ Librivox maintains a loose and open structure.
- ☒ Librivox welcomes all volunteers from across the globe, in all languages.



2017-2019 Eta State Executive Board Officers



The **2017-2019 Eta State NC officers** were officially elected at the Executive Board meeting held at the 2017 Eta State Conference.

Connie Savell is our newly elected president. She was recommended by Delta Tau, Region X, for the position of President 2017-2019. She has served as First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Planning Committee Chairman, Rules Committee Chairman, and Leadership Development Committee member. Connie has been a leader in Beta Epsilon where she served as President and First Vice President. She founded and served as President of Delta Tau. Her professional education service includes NCAE as President of the Kings Mountain Association of Educators, the Board of Directors NCAE and President of Cleveland County Retired School Personnel. Connie was elected to the Cleveland County School Board for the 2007-2009 term. She is a choir member in her church and a past member of the Cleveland County Arts in Education Committee. From 1998-2003 she served on the Board of Trustees of Erskine College. She is also chair of the DAR Good Citizen Committee. We are fortunate to have her as our newly elected president.



Connie Savell, President; Dr. Teresa Cowan, 1st Vice-President; Elizabeth Miars, 2nd Vice-President; Nancy Teague, Recording Secretary.

To learn more about each of our executive board officers, go to the Eta News Spring 2017 newsletter, **Volume 76, Number 3, Page 3.**

DKG International President



International **President Carolyn Pittman** wants to ask us a very important question, **Are you a "Yes, and..." or a "Yes, but..." person?** Before you answer that question, here is a little background that may help you. President Pittman says one of her best mentors taught her to think about the literal meaning of **"paper work"** which was to think about intent, have purposeful ownership of her responsibilities, and think about how and why she wanted to shape an organizational environment. She believes **"good paperwork makes good people work."**

She says we must be more aware of membership purposes, responsibilities and benefits, then we can better serve one another and ourselves. We can teach and learn from what we know.

If we know our **Purposes**, it makes us mindful of whom we want this organization to represent and of what we want **OUR organization** to BE! When we are aware of the **Purposes to Unite, Honor, Advance, Initiate, Endow, Stimulate and Inform**, we behave in ways that reflect them, ways that make us be strong word citizens.

She believes DKG membership is enhanced with a **"Yes, and..." attitude** which is the opposite of the **"Yes, but..." attitude."** **"Yes, and..." opens possibilities** while the

"Yes, but..." limits possibilities. President Pittman wants us to make this the time we choose **"Yes, and..."**

One way to think about this is how we retain members. Do we contact a member before they she drops? Do we check on absent members? Do we speak to new and potential members? The **"paper work"** of membership could be explained as knowing **WHY you are a DKG member** and the **"people work"** could be explained **HOW** you are a DKG member. A positive approach to **WHY and HOW** makes you a **"Yes, and..."** kind of person.



**INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT**

**Carolyn Pittman
2016-2018**

May – October Birthdays



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

May	June	July
Terry Dickens - 1	Amy Stanley - 8	Stacy Holloman - 1
Fran Riddick - 3	Noela Sue Woodall - 9	Paula Bullock - 5
Trudy Farnell - 8	Kathy Hamilton - 13	Marjorie Harris - 8
Rose Walker - 11	Tucker Twisdale - 19	Susan Jones - 14
Jennifer Moore - 13	Heather Anders - 25	Ann Carper - 15
Karen Hicks - 17	Lynn Ragsdale - 25	Edna Luper - 20
Sybil Edwards - 18	Karen Collins - 25	Amy Creed - 21
Lorine Davis - 23		
Jennifer Foy - 27		



August	September	October
Debbie Woodruff - 1	Mary Nell Ferguson - 4	Glenda Toler - 4
Ann Brown - 2	Ramona Cash - 5	Karen Creech - 22
Melissa Finch - 3	Dorothy Drive - 6	Mary Ann Lee - 22
Cynthia Toudle - 5	Becky Kuszmaul - 11	Terri Sessoms - 25
Mary Daughtry - 25	Jennifer Bare - 18	
	Mary Helen Wyatt - 23	
	Laura Faye Canaday - 27	
	Heather Pennica - 27	
	Betty Ferrell - 28	

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.

Barbara Barnes	Betty Ferrell	Maylene Sanders
Laura Faye Canaday	Freddie Creech	Glenda Hales
Bess Ragsdale		

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
alphabetachapternc@gmail.com



DKG Eta State NC Engraved Brick Form

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone: Home _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____

Chapter _____

Please send the attached LASER ENGRAVING 4 X 8 ENGRAVED PAVER WORKSHEET with this form to Ruth Jones, 3607 Wyneston Road, Greenville, NC 27858 with \$125.00 for each brick to be purchased.

Message on Worksheet is three lines of 18 characters per line including commas, spaces, and symbols.

Message must be on official PINE HALL BRICK WORKSHEET.

LASER ENGRAVING 4 X 8 ENGRAVED PAVER WORKSHEET

NOTE: ONLY ONE CHARACTER IN EACH BOX. ALL LETTERS,
PUNCTUATION AND SPACES COUNT AS ONE CHARACTER



Contribution to: Alpha Beta Chapter Endowment Fund
Established 5-11-2000

Date of Contribution: _____

Contribution in Memory/Honor of: _____

Person to be Notified of Contribution: _____

Address of Person to be Notified: _____

Contributor's Name: _____

Amount: _____ Check Number: _____ Cash: _____

Make Checks to Alpha Beta Chapter and mail to Becky Kuszmaul at: 2861 Yelverton Grove Road. Smithfield, NC 27577.

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