



Alpha Beta Bits

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International – Eta State, NC

VOLUME 15

ISSUE 4

MARCH 2016

DATES TO REMEMBER

**April 22 - 24
2016**

Eta State
Convention
Winston Salem, NC

**July 5-9
2016**

International Convention
Gaylord Opryland Resort
Nashville, TN

**April 28 - 30
2017**

Eta State
Convention
Wilmington, NC



ALPHA BETA CHAPTER OFFICERS

**Lorine Davis
President**

**Karen Parker
1st Vice President**

**Karen Creech
2nd Vice President**

**Mary Helen Sills
Secretary**

**Becky Kuszmaul
Treasurer**

Message from President Lorine Davis

What has your membership in DKG done for you? I am certain to my core that the invitation that was delivered lifted your spirits and your resolve to be worthy of joining the educational leaders who were members. And chances are, the feelings that your invitation evoked have subsided.

Has membership in DKG encouraged you to continue your growth as an educational leader? Have you become more active in one of the committees

we have in Alpha Beta? Do you have a yearning to make a difference in Beginning Teacher Support? How about Law and Policy? Scholarships? Awards? Educational Excellence? These and other committees thrive only because of the passion of members to make a difference in the lives of others. Have you answered the call of the Nominations Committee to serve for the next biennium? We are all busy – so adding another job is a commitment. Do you

suppose those who led before you were consumed with free time? Not the women I know in Alpha Beta!

Have you stepped out of your comfort zone? Leadership requires us to take some risks. Leading women educators can't impact education without some stretching! Have you stretched lately to increase your educational excellence?...**See Page 2**

**President
Lorine Davis
2014-16**



Eta State Convention



Alpha Beta Sisters, I would like to challenge you to be among the first to register for this year's **Eta State Convention** in **Winston-Salem**.

There will be several members going so I know you won't have to go alone. It is as easy as completing the registration form available on the convention webpage.

The **early bird deadline** is **April 1st**. Don't forget about

the banquet and brunch. Tickets are available until **April 15th**.

Mail your registration form to **Convention Treasurer Chris Waters** by **April 1st**.

Contact **Convention Registrar Carolyn Coram** with any questions at **etastateregistrar2016@gmail.com**.



A copy of the convention registration form is provided for your convenience on **Page 10**.

Take me up on the challenge to attend.



Message From President (Cont.)

Since being invited to join Alpha Beta Chapter, I've taken advantage of what membership has provided. I wouldn't want to let Terri Sessoms down! I agreed to honor Ramona Cash's directive, "The answer is always 'Yes!'" Serving as your president has had unexpected pleasures and has brought me unexpected opportunities. My latest Society "yes" was to become a member of the fund raising committee for the North Carolina Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation. It's daunting, yet I look forward to growing through this new service.

Of course, there's also the John Kennedy perspective. What have you done for DKG? Have you served on a committee? Hosted a meeting? Encouraged members? Celebrated the accomplishments of our Sisters?

Wait a minute! Those questions sound so similar to those that ask, "What has DKG done for you?" That's because what is good for DKG is good for you. And what is good for you as a professional educator is good for DKG.

Take out your calendar and your checkbook. If you can make it work, register for our State Convention in Winston-Salem and book yourself a room. There are new friends just waiting to find you! And there will be Alpha Beta Sisters to share the experience, synthesize the goings-on, and ponder the next steps as leading educators.

It's time for each of us to remember that we're now "those wonderful educational leaders" that others will want to join. Let's set an example that matches the one set for us. There is strength in membership! Still following in the footsteps, Lorine. Email Lorine at: alphabetapreslorine@gmail.com

Chapter Excellence Award



One of the ways President Davis has helped to ensure Alpha Beta Members feel more appreciated is by recognizing their achievements. She began the **Chapter Excellence Award** in 2014 so members could see what they had been doing.

At the beginning of each meeting, members complete a form where they check off their accomplishments. These accomplishments include the number of meetings attended, if they are participating on a committee, etc. At the end of the year, the points are totaled and forms are shared with the Awards Committee.

At our November meeting members with the highest score were awarded a **Chapter Excellence Award Certificate**.



Pictured (L to R) Standing - Becky Kuszmaul, Denise Bryd, Mary Nell Ferguson, Lynn Ragsdale, Jennifer Swartz, and Sonya Kiser.

Pictured (L to R) Sitting - President Lorine Davis, Mary Helen Wyatt, Terri Sessoms, and Ramona Cash.

JCS Principal of the Year



Congratulations to **Suzanne Mitchell**, principal of Selma Elementary School, who has been selected as the **2015-2016 Wells Fargo Principal of the Year for Johnston County Schools** in a program sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and Wells Fargo.

Mitchell was honored at a special Johnston County Principals/Assistant Principals Association (JCPAPA) breakfast on July 8th at Cleveland High School. The Johnston County Education Foundation presented her with an award check in the amount of \$1,000, of which \$500 is for personal use and \$500 is for her school.

"Ms. Mitchell exhibits outstanding leadership, and her dedication shows in all that she does for her school, district, and community," said Johnston County Schools Superintendent Dr. Ed Croom. "We wish her well as she moves forward in this competition, and the district is confident that she is an excellent role model for principals across the state. Our school system is fortunate to have the caliber of leadership that we have in our principals."



Selma Elementary School's **Suzanne Mitchell** (center) is the **2015-2016 Wells Fargo Principal of the Year for Johnston County Schools**. Standing beside her is Johnston County Board of Education member Dr. Peggy Smith (left) and Superintendent Dr. Ed Croom (right).

Courtesy of **The Johnson County Report**— <http://www.jocoreport.com/2015/07/14/mitchell-named-2015-2016-johnston-county-schools-principal-of-the-year/>

Let's Stay Connected



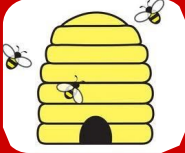
Alpha Beta Chapter NC

Closed Group

Joined ▾ Share Notifications ...



Saving the Bees



MORE INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT HONEY BEES—THEIR BRAINS DEFY TIME

- ✓ When aging bees do jobs usually reserved for younger members, their brain stops aging.
- ✓ In fact, their brain ages in reverse. (Imagine if riding a tricycle didn't just make you feel young - it actually made your brain tick like a younger person's.)

- ✓ Scientists at Arizona State University believe the discovery can help us slow the onset of dementia.
- ✓ Scientist found Prx6, a protein also found in humans that can help protect against diseases such as Alzheimer's.

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

Extra, Extra,
Read All
About It!



We have two members who are showing a tremendous amount of leadership in Johnston County Schools. Congratulations to **Jennifer Moore**, who has been named **Middle School Director, CIA**. **Heather Anders**, has been named **principal of Smithfield Middle School**. I know you will want to congratulate both Jennifer and Heather as they take on these new positions.

? 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 ?

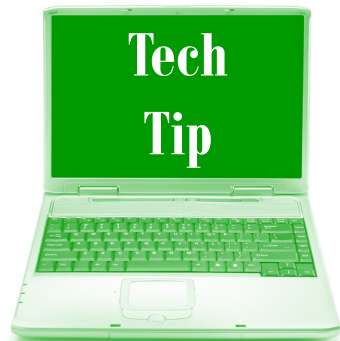
1. I can film the wide or tight copy of a high school football game from high atop a swaying press box.
2. I have taught at Riverwood Elementary since its inception and I have more than 20 years in education.
3. I am blessed with two daughters, Logan and Hayden.
4. I am a member of First Baptist Church in Smithfield.



Find Name of Mystery Member on **Page 5**.



Tech Tip



Grammarly

<https://www.grammarly.com/>



I was looking at videos on YouTube this week and one of the ads that showed before I could watch my video was for a grammar checker, Grammarly. I am so passionate about making sure I don't make grammatical mistakes in my documents so I was intrigued to find out more about this resource. I have downloaded the program to try it out. So far I am very pleased with the resource so I thought I would share it with you.

There are two versions of Grammarly. There is the free version and a premium version that has more features. You can pay a monthly or yearly subscription for the premium version. I am trying out the free version.

Grammarly scans your text for proper use of more than 250 advanced grammar rules, spanning everything from subject-verb agreement to article use to modifier placement.

Grammarly also has a contextual spelling checker. It spots erroneous use of *lose/loose*, *affect/effect*, *lie/lay*, *there/their/they're*, and many other commonly confused words.

Vocabulary enhancement is a feature of Grammarly. You can enhance your sentences with Grammarly's context-optimized word choice suggestions to instantly improve the readability of your document.



See an analysis of my text.

Use the following steps to access the resource, Grammarly.

1. Go to: <http://www.grammarly.com>
2. Next, try out the resource before actually downloading it to your computer..
3. Go to the bottom of the Web page and click on the red **"Check Your Text"** button to get started.
4. Next, paste text in the text box provided.
5. Then click on the red **"Check Your Text"** button.
6. Grammarly will provide an analysis of your text.
7. Next, click on **"Sign Up"** to begin the process of downloading this resource.

Grammar	✓
Punctuation	✓
Spelling	2 2 Accidentally confused words
Enhancement	✓
Style	✓
Sentence Structure	✓
Plagiarism was not detected	✓

Did you guess right? The **Mystery Member** highlighted on Page 4 is **Abby Salas**.

Visit our Chapter Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com>. Search for Alpha Beta Society International.



News From Eta State President

In President Shelia Groves' message, she challenges us to think of a few things we can do to strengthen our membership in Delta Kappa Gamma. President Groves has several suggestions:

- ✓ **Stay Connected** – Attend chapter meetings, read publications, and browse social media.
- ✓ **Network Beyond the Chapter** – Attend the Eta State Convention in Winston-Salem, April 22 - 24, 2016.
- ✓ **Learn more about the Society** – Explore state and international web sites to get more information.
- ✓ **Promote Society Purposes** – Support chapter and state projects.
- ✓ **Share enthusiasm for DKG Work** - Be a positive voice.
- ✓ **Be part of the Team** – Volunteer for a committee or special chapter assignment.

I think these are great suggestions for us to think about as we begin embracing this new year. What can you do to strengthen our Alpha Beta Chapter? Let's find the answers together!



**President
Sheila Groves
2015-2017**

**Connect with
President Groves**

svgeta97@gmail.com

DKG International President



In President Lyn Babb's message this month, Dr Schmid shared one the questions she is frequently asked, **How do we get members to take a leadership role?"** She knows this is an important question right now for so many chapters as we are assembling our slate of officers for the new biennium.

She thinks with the ever evolving state of education, we may need much different leadership tomorrow. She thinks we should ask ourselves these questions, **Are members staying? How many member have been developed into leadership roles. Are the structure and the climate of the chapter flexible and inclusive?**

She believes we need to develop our members with the expertise to lead and the courage and vision to shed the old and embrace the new as conditions require.

"Leadership development," she says requires three sets of activities:

- ✓ **"Mentoring** - opportunities for members to learn from other members,
- ✓ **Knowledge of the organization** - natural exposure to the full range of Society activities, and
- ✓ **Formal training programs** - development of effective leadership behaviors."

As a member of Alpha Beta, I agree we need to invest in the future leaders of our organization. Do we have things in place to prepare them to guide us through the next generation and evolution of Delta Kappa Gamma? If so, this will help ensure they will become the effective leaders of tomorrow.



**Dr. Lyn Babb
Schmid
International
President
2014-2016**

Dr. Lyn Babb's Blog

<http://lynschmid.blogspot.com/>



Changes to DKG Website



The DKG Website has a new look. There are some new features such as member only areas that require log in. To access this information, go to the upper right hand corner of the Web site and click on the **Sign In** button.

Your username is your **six digit member id** that can be found on your membership card, from your chapter treasurer, or on the back of your **DKG NEWS**. If you find the number on the back of the *NEWS*, please be aware that you **must remove the last number**.

From the **home page** you can find out the top news at DKG, access the Educational Foundation, donate to DKG, participate in communities, buy Society supplies and access the Award Concepts website through the store, find state organization and chapter websites, and view the Gallery of Fine Arts. At the bottom of the home page you will find links to the latest DKG publications and the DKG Twitter and Facebook feeds. To access the **DKG Web site** to see the new changes, go to <http://www.dkg.org/>.

Sign In (use Member ID as Username)

Include the **6 digit #** on your DKG membership card.

Username

Password

dkg2014society

Remember me

Sign In

Forgot [my password](#) or [my username](#)

[Non Member Sign In](#)

For assistance, email mem@dkg.org.

512-478-5748

Leading Women Educators
Impacting Education Worldwide

Mar. – Aug. Birthdays



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

March	April	May
Allette Hale - 19	Freddie Creech - 1	Terry Dickens - 1
Renee Wiggs - 28	Bess Ragsdale - 14	Denise Luper - 7
Marlene Sanders - 30	Frances Warren - 14	Trudy Farnell - 8
	Olive Cooke - 16	Rose Walker - 11
	Yvette Davis - 27	Mary Sauls - 12
		Jennifer Moore - 13
		Karen Hicks - 17
		Sybil Edwards - 18
		Lorine Davis - 23
		Jennifer Foy - 27



June	July	August
Sandy Smith - 1	Stacy Holloman - 1	Debbie Woodruff - 1
Amy Stanley - 8	Paula Bullock - 5	Ann Brown - 2
Noela Sue Woodall - 9	Marjorie Harris - 8	Melissa Finch - 3
Kathy Hamilton - 13	Ann Carper - 15	Cynthia Toudle - 5
Tucker Twisdale - 19	Edna Luper - 20	Mary Fred Daughtry - 25
Lynn Ragsdale - 25		

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.

Barbara Barnes	Freddie Creech	Maylene Sanders
Laura Faye Canaday	Glenda Hales	Margaret Walker
Betty Ferrell	Bess Ragsdale	Mary Helen Wyatt

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



CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM
Due to Convention Treasurer by April 1, 2016
THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL – ETA STATE NC CONVENTION
 April 22-April 24, 2016

Marriott, 425 North Cherry Street, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27101

Hotel Reservations - Call **1-336-725-3500** or **1-877-888-9762**. Request **Delta Kappa Gamma group rate**. Rooms are \$119+tax for double or king. Rate will be in effect until March 22, 2016 and cannot be guaranteed after that date. Additional fee for parking deck.

Convention Registration- Mail completed registration form and check made payable to *Eta State Convention* to:
 Chris Waters, Convention Treasurer – 420 Marshall View Court, Winston-Salem NC 27101.

NO REFUNDS from Eta State after April 1, 2016.

Everyone must register, including those who are assisting during the convention.

Use one form for each person. Please type or print.

Title (Circle one): Dr., Miss, Ms, Mrs. _____
 Last Name First Name Middle Initial

Preference for Name Tag _____

Mailing Address _____
 Street City State Zip Code

Email Address _____ Phone No. _____

Chapter Name: _____ Region _____ Year Initiated _____

Check all boxes that apply. Current state officers and/or current state committee members, please include position held.

State Officer	<input type="checkbox"/>	State Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Position	<input type="checkbox"/>	Regional Director	<input type="checkbox"/>	Past State President	<input type="checkbox"/>	State Honorary Member	<input type="checkbox"/>
Position Held:											
Chapter President	<input type="checkbox"/>	Guest	<input type="checkbox"/>	NBCT	<input type="checkbox"/>	Retired	<input type="checkbox"/>	Active in Education	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Current Teacher of the Year	<input type="checkbox"/>	40+ Year Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	Beginning Teacher (0-4 years)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wish to Participate in Convention Choir	<input type="checkbox"/>	Attending First Convention	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Registration Fee:		Amount
Postmarked by April 1, 2016	\$25.00	\$ _____
Postmarked by April 1, 2016 (one day)	\$15.00	\$ _____
Postmarked after April 1, 2016 or on site	\$35.00	\$ _____

Saturday, April 23 **Presidents Reception before banquet** (Everyone invited. No charge.): here _____

Banquet Honoring Chapter Presidents (Select One): here for Gluten free _____

A. Rigatoni Primavera (vegetarian)	\$25.00	\$ _____
B. Herbed Chicken Breast	\$32.00	\$ _____
C. Herbed Salmon Filet	\$37.00	\$ _____

Sunday, April 24	Sunday Brunch	\$24.00	\$ _____
(All meals include gratuity and tax.)		TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED	\$ _____

Banquet and Brunch meal tickets CANNOT be sold after Friday, April 15 (hotel deadline.)

Materials may not be available to persons who register after Friday, April 1 or on site.

Questions about registration: Contact Carolyn Coram, Convention Registrar, etastateregistrar2016@gmail.com

Questions about payments: Contact Chris Waters, Convention Treasurer, waterscs@gmail.com