



Alpha Beta Bits

Delta Kappa Gamma International Society – Eta State, NC

VOLUME 13

ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 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

Dear Sisters:

What a marvelous time of the year! The trees are ablaze with color and mornings are clear and crisp. We are blessed to have four unique seasons in our state. Beautiful weather makes me happy each day and helps me realize how blessed I am to live in North Carolina. It is a time to reflect on needs of others also.

Alpha Beta has many worthwhile projects for you to be involved with this year. Please remember to bring 'goodies' for show-n-sell at our next meeting to raise money for scholarships. The new teacher committee is collecting gum, nabs and life savers for goodie bags. The money we raise from our raffle drawings is used for leadership

seminars and Schools from Africa. We are fortunate to have such a giving chapter and I thank you for being such generous sisters. I hope the upcoming holidays are very special for you and your families.

Lynn Ragsdale

lharloe@hotmail.com



Stand Up For Students Forum

On October 9, 2013, a forum was held at the Johnston Co. Courthouse. The purpose of the forum was to hear from key educators on the impact of recent legislation effecting our education system. The speakers included Dr. June Atkinson, State Superintendent, Bob Etheridge, former NC Congressman; Dr. David Johnson, President of Johnston Community College, Dr. Ed Croom, Superintendent of JCS; Mr. Dwight Morris, Ex. Director

of Partnership for Children; Mr. Rich Nixon, President of JC Association of Educators; and Ms. Karey Harwood, Executive Director of Public Schools First NC.

Each speaker was given time to share their thoughts on topics they thought were most important. Each speaker was well received by all who were in attendance



to include several Alpha Beta Chapter members. The importance of this forum was to show support for leaders willing to make a stand for educators.

Health Tip of the Month



I thought a monthly health tip would be beneficial to all of us so I plan to include one in all of our newsletters. This particular health tip is near and dear to me. I love to laugh and when I'm stressed I feel better if I can find something to laugh about.

Research has shown laughing has both physical and mental benefits. So bring some humor into your life.

"Your sense of humor is one of the most powerful tools you have to make certain that your daily mood and emotional state support good health." ~ Paul E. McGhee, Ph.D.

Physical Benefits

- Boosts immunity
- Lowers stress hormones
- Decreases pain
- Relaxes your muscles
- Prevents heart disease

Mental Benefits

- Adds joy and zest to life
- Eases anxiety and fear
- Relieves stress
- Improves mood
- Enhances resilience

http://www.helpguide.org/life/humor_laughter_health.htm



Your NC General Assembly Legislators

Reach out to your Johnston County Legislators.

Rep. William Brisson 919-733-5772 William.Brisson@ncleg.net	Sen. Brent Jackson 919-733-5705 Brent.Jackson@ncleg.net
Rep. Leo Daughtry 919-733-5605 Leo.Daughtry@ncleg.net	Sen. Buck Newton 919-715-3030 Buck.Newton@ncleg.net
Rep. J. H. Langdon 919-733-5849 James.Langdon@ncleg.net	Sen. Rob Rabin 919-733-5748 Rob.Rabin@ncleg.net

Johnston County Public Service Award



Let's celebrate **Cynthia Toudle** who was honored for her public service in the community by the **Johnston County Citizen's Association Inc.** on **November 3, 2013**. She was able to raise \$1000.00 that will be used to help minority students in college.

Cynthia would like to thank several Alpha Beta Chapter Sisters who helped her raise the funds; Ramona Cash, Mary Helen Wyatt, and Glenda Toler. Congratulations to Cynthia for her outstanding contribution to her community. We are so fortunate to have Cynthia as a member.



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. **Met husband in high school. We both worked at same grocery store.**
2. **Graduated from same college with same major as my daughter.**
3. **Introduced daughter to her husband, one of my high school students.**
4. **Walked on the Great Wall of China.**



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



Legislative Update

Eta State Legislative
Coordinator
Lynn Ragsdale

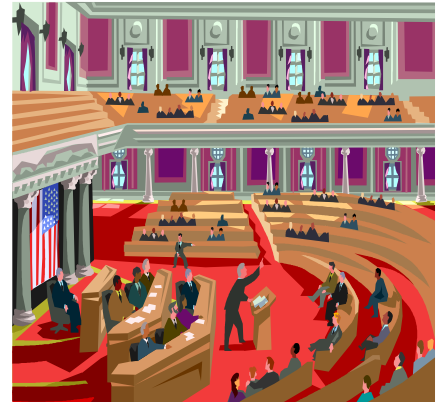
The Eta State Education Law & Policy Committee wanted to give DKG members an opportunity to let their voice of influence to be heard. A survey was created with 14 different topics to include teacher salaries, merit pay, class size, vouchers, and standardized testing.

Data collected from the survey will allow us to communicate with legislators with greater certainty and confidence on the topics we think are important to us as a society.

The Eta State Education Law & Policy Committee goal is to have 80% of our Eta State members complete the survey. Survey results will be sent to chapter presidents when the data is tallied.

The due date is **Wednesday, November 20, 2013**. To access the survey, go to: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/15tGE1r74GkzDWHuX8AjRzfEfN1wokDaz9AT4MdQO6S0/viewform>.

If you have any questions or are unable to complete the survey, please contact Karen Creech at karen.creech@ncpublicschools.gov.



Let Your Voice of Influence Be Heard

At our September meeting there were several discussions related to the power of our voices as educators. We challenged each member to find their voice of influence and let it be heard. I thought you would benefit from reading an article that shows the conviction of a fellow educator and her willingness to share her voice.



The article was printed in the Charlotte Observer and is entitled, **"Hunger Games' Teacher Pay Plan is just Wrong."**

Pam Lile, school librarian at Cornelius Elementary, wanted her voice to be heard so she wrote the article related to a hot topic being discussed by NC legislators; teacher pay. She compared what legislators are doing to teacher pay is much like the Hunger Games movie plot. She notes in the article that the General Assembly voted to end all teacher tenure by 2018.

Legislators are going to ask school systems to determine their top 25 percent teachers and offer only these teachers a four-year contract and a \$5,000 pay raise for that period. All other teachers will be hired on one-year contracts, with no possibility for tenure. She doesn't want to see our good teachers being pitted against each other in a battle for adequate compensation.

The good news is state leaders across many of our school districts are challenging the change, and urging lawmakers to reconsider. As educators, what topics do we believe need to be challenged? A way you can be heard is by completing the survey developed by the **Eta State Education Law & Policy Committee**. See information above on how to access survey.

To read the entire article, go to the Charlotte Observer Web site at <http://www.charlotteobserver.com> and search for the article entitled, **"Hunger Games' Teacher Pay Plan is just Wrong."**

Image—https://fbcdn-profile-a.akamaihd.net/hprofile-ak-prn1/s160x160/73035_431743900213709_508080634_a.jpg

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



Tech Tip



Remind 101

<https://www.remind101.com/>

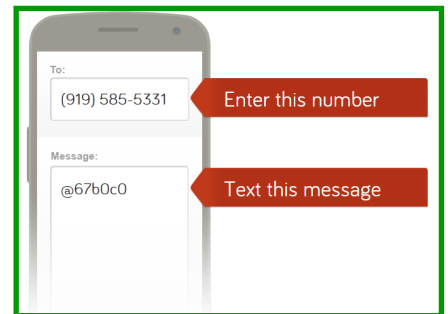
Remind 101

As an educator, I'm always looking for ways to connect with students and parents. Since both students and parents are more tech savvy than ever before, there are lots of new Web 2.0 tools that teachers can use to connect with them.

I want to thank Amy Stanley for sharing this resource. It is a safe way for teachers to send text message to students as well as stay in touch with parents. The good news is this resource is **FREE**.

We are trying this tool out in our Chapter to connect with members to show it effectiveness. I hope teachers will find it is a valuable resource and use it with students and/or parents. I've included instructions below on how to get set up.

1. To sign up for Remind 101, go to <https://www.remind101.com/>
2. Next, provide your **full name**, **email address** and a **password** in the text box provided.
3. Add your first class by providing the name of the class you want to set up i.e. math, first period, etc.
4. Next, grab your smart phone & subscribe to your new class. A specific phone number will be provided for the new class. Follow all of the directions provided online as you are going through the set up process.
5. Once you have completed the set up process, you will want to add students and/or parents to the account.
6. Click on the button entitled, **Invite Subscribers**. A popup box will appear of a screenshot including the phone number and message you will need to send to students and/or parents so they can sign up to receive text messages from you.
7. Parents and students will subscribe to the free service using their smart phones.
8. A confirmation message will be sent back to the students and/or parents so they know they have successfully signed up to receive text messages from you.



Hope you find this a valuable resource to help you connect with both students and/or parents.

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 **Debra Avery**.



News From Eta State President

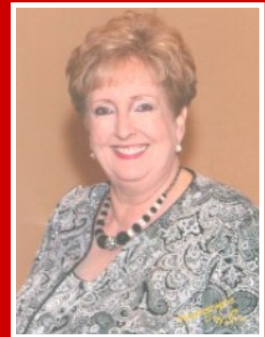
President Taylor wants to remind us that there will be three ships sailing in Eta State. She wants to highlight the first ship, **"The Eta State Membership."** This is an important project for Eta State and is entitled, **"Mentoring Members (M&Ms)."**

President Taylor wants members to make a commitment to continue supporting beginning teachers and to remember teachers needing our support due to loss of assistants or placement in new curriculum areas.

The good news for our Chapter is we have a very strong Beginning Teacher Support Committee, chaired by Terri Sessoms. Her committee has already reached out to the 190+ new teachers in Johnston County at the beginning of the school year. The committee will continue to support beginning teachers by asking members to bring items for "goodie bags" that will be shared with these new teachers later this school year.

President Taylor would like to highlight the wonderful work being done for beginning teachers. She has asked chapters to send her digital pictures of activities showing members in action as they "mentor members." The pictures will be shown on a screen during the 2014 Eta State Convention in Greenville, NC. To share pictures, members are asked to send them to: eta1315pt@gmail.com.

The other two ships sailing at Eta State are **Leadership** and genuine spiritual **Fellowship**. To read more about them go to President Taylors Web page 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)

Eta State

Convention 2013



The Eta State Convention is going to be held on **April 25-27, 2014** in Greenville, N.C. The theme of the conference is ***Dare to Be Courageous.***

Beth Winstead and Anne Brillley, Chair and Vice Chair of the state convention event announced a highlight of the event will be celebrating Eta State's 80th year as part of Delta Kappa Gamma International! What a great accomplishment and worthwhile celebration.

I think it would be great if we could not only be a participant at the convention, but to present at the convention. I know we have a lot of wonderful talent in our Chapter and I would like to encourage you to submit a proposal to present a workshop at the convention. The application is now posted on the Eta State website. For more information, go to the Eta State Web site at: <http://www.deltakappagamma.org/.NC/>.

President Pat Taylor's Theme and Vision

Together, We Are Stronger -
Committing, Collaborating,
Celebrating!

Voices of Influence
Empowering NC Women
Educators (VIEW)



News From DKG President

President Helms believes in the power of **ONE** and even just ONE individual DKG member can make a difference; **"she can strengthen a chapter, step up to a challenge, inspire a state organization or province, or, change the course of history."**

President Helms shares a very powerful quote, by Edward Everett Hale to make her point. **"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything but I can do something and I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can."**

Her challenge to us is to be that **ONE** person who steps forward when asked to lead. Be the one who questions doing things simply because that's the way they have always been done. Be the one to inspire and challenge members to go beyond the chapter level in their participation.

She wants you to remember if you take up her challenge to be the **ONE**, there is power in one and you may be the one who makes the difference.

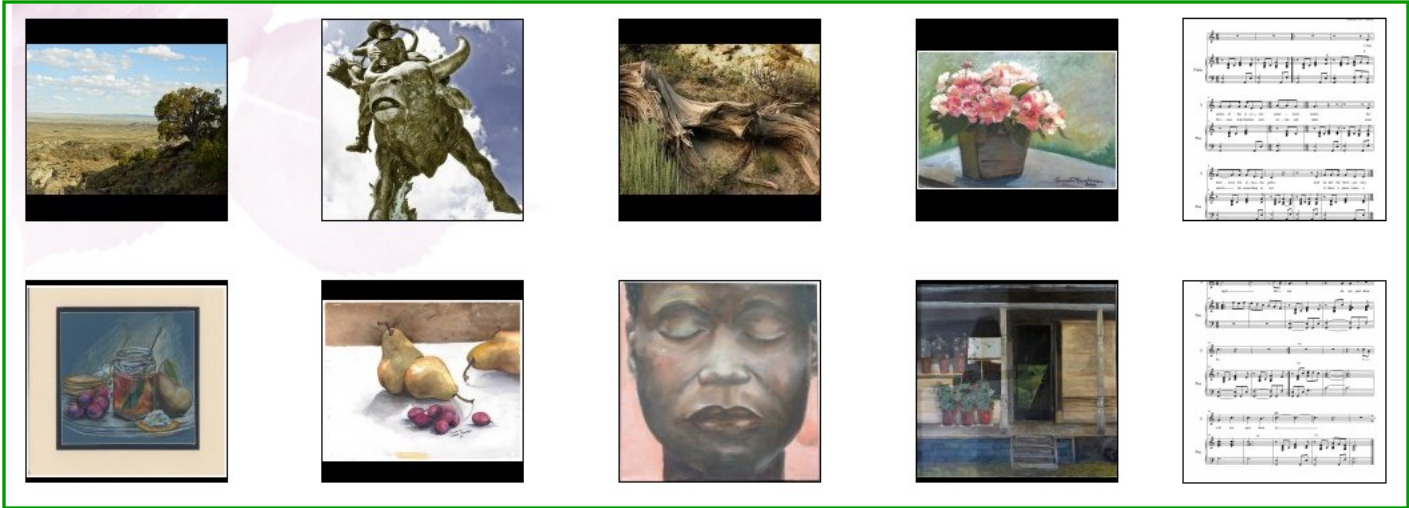


Dr. Beverly Helms
International President
2012-2014

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

Reprinted from *DKG News*, Nov.-Dec. 2013

DKG Gallery of Fine Arts



The **DKG Gallery of Fine Arts** collection is being displayed on the DKG Web site. The collection includes paintings, pottery, statues, poetry, and music from seven artists. Please check out the talent being displayed in the virtual gallery at: <https://www.dkg.org/content/dkg-gallery-fine-arts>.

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

Jan. – June Birthdays



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

October	November	December
Glenda Toler - 4	Karen Parker - 2	Susan Auman - 5
Mary Ann Lee - 22	Janice White - 5	Margaret Lee Walker - 6
Karen Creech - 22	Denise Byrd - 9	Leona Parrish - 10
Terri Sessoms - 25	Eloise Bonds - 1	Abby Salas - 15
	Barbara Barnes - 14	Martha Bradshaw - 27
	Sonya Kiser - 28	



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		

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

