



# Alpha Beta Bits

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International – Eta State, NC

VOLUME 17

ISSUE 2

SEPT.-OCT., 2017

## DATES TO REMEMBER

February 1,  
2018

Eta State and DKG  
International Scholarships

April 27 - 29,  
2018

Eta State  
Convention  
Charlotte, 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 Kuzmaul**  
Treasurer

## Message from President Lorine Davis

This month's message is one of thanksgiving and commitment. I am grateful for the support you give Alpha Beta. I'm reminded by DKG International President Carolyn Pittman that support and commitment come in many forms. Support and commitment to the organization look different at different stages of our lives and we are to be grateful for each other throughout those stages in order to have a strong Chapter. What a powerful lesson for me!

There is a plethora of "commitment" quotes on

the internet. I was going to use a few of them to make points about commitment, but I realized that our real life Alpha Beta examples will serve even better.

Alpha Beta Chapter is committed to the support of beginning teachers. Some Chapters, smaller in number than Alpha Beta, support a few schools in their district. In Johnston County, we've been schooled in systemic thinking and that trickled over into the support of all the beginning teachers – this year over 125 teachers! It's not

convenient. It's not cheap. It's not easy. But I think of Sonya Kiser's joyful pride as she shared her story of greeting former students as she – and other committee members – supported our beginning teachers last August. Now, Sonya wasn't privy to the list of beginning teachers – there was a great chance that she wouldn't know one personally. She surely didn't arrive at Selma Elementary thinking that she was going to be blessed by the words... **See Page 2.**

**President  
Lorine Davis  
2016-18**



## Frances Hobart Award

The JCCF awarded the annual **Frances Finch Hobart Award for Voluntary Community Service** honor to **Ramona Hobgood Cash**. The award was established in 2006 to recognize and honor the tireless efforts of Frances Finch Hobart and the countless hours of community service she has given through the years. The intent of this award is to recognize an individual from

Johnston County who demonstrates vision, vitality, determination, selflessness, generosity and a full caring heart to his or her community. Recipients are encouraged to name an organization that they feel deserves to receive a **\$850 grant** from the Frances Finch Hobart Endowment Fund. Ramona selected to support the **Johnston County Arts Council**.



**Ramona Cash  
Frances Hobart  
Award**



# Message From President (Cont.)

of appreciation from former students. That was one of the perks of her commitment to Alpha Beta. Commitment can bring pride.

Alpha Beta Chapter is committed to the support of young women who are pursuing a degree in education. Ann Brown was committed to her job last June and was already going to the senior awards night ceremony when she got the call to present the Alpha Beta Chapter Endowment (Scholarship) to a young woman at her school. What a perk! Ann would have applauded this student from afar, but because of her commitment to Alpha Beta, she got to announce the recipient and present her with the certificate.

Our Literacy Committee is committed to excellence and service. Ann Parrish was on the computer over Thanksgiving last year, looking for the very best Black Friday deals so that Alpha Beta could support the JoCo Partnership for Children by purchasing needed Chrome Books for the after-school program in Benson. The generosity of Alpha Beta Chapter members was evident as we brought new and gently used books for the Literacy Committee to give to Harbor House last December. Those books ended up being treasured Christmas gifts for children who had left the familiarity of their homes because of domestic violence. And magazines. It seems that we Alpha Beta sisters subscribe to a ton of magazines. The Literacy Committee dutifully collects them at meetings and takes them to area laundromats to promote literacy. The commitment of our Alpha Beta shows in our compassion for those in need.

We've come to associate Ramona Cash's name with commitment. She's served in many leadership roles in Alpha Beta and her current role as Awards Chair is not a slacker role! Our Member Excellence Awards are a measure of the health of Alpha Beta. Your score reflects how much you've been able to further the goals of DKG over the last year. We're all at different places in our lives, especially in our families and our professions. Our abilities change from year to year. It's more important that you are doing something than it is that you are checking every check box on the Member Excellence form. Please know that humble commitment to Alpha Beta is appreciated.

Commitment drives us to attend meetings, being there for each other when it would be so much easier to pick up a take-out on the way home and just "get things done" within our families. Our meetings always begin with squeals of joy, laughter, and hugs. Our commitment to each other grows as we work together and accomplish good things as leading women educators. We haven't always been sisters – it was commitment to the organization, to each other, and to our profession that helped our relationships grow. The friendships deepen over time!

I'm committed to do the best I can during this final year as your president. I'll do my best to be prepared for meetings, to help lead the organization in informed decisions, to encourage financial stability and continued support of the legacy that was in place long before I joined Alpha Beta. The Alpha Beta Annie Blanton Scholarship is available this year for members working on degrees or National Boards. Please send your applications to Karen Parker so that we can support your efforts. The November meeting focus is the "Show and Sell". We all have to do our parts by bringing items to sell and a bit of cash for bidding. I will have at least one Name Badge Pocket for the bidding – maybe more.

On a final note of commitment, I have a bit of housekeeping. Karen Creech and Becky Kuszmaul serve this Chapter more than I ever will. Please respond quickly – please respond! – when Karen sends out the meeting notices. She wants to know if you're attending so we know how many seats to set up and if you're eating in order to be sure Golden Corral brings enough food. Our hesitations – our procrastinations – cause her more work. She is already compiling the information to write the newsletter and she emails us with news about members and opportunities between newsletters. Ladies, even I have to respond in order to get a seat and a meal, even though Karen is counting on me being there as president. And dues. Please respond to Becky's request for dues. Most of us are committed to the organization and plan to pay our dues on time. Help Becky check your name off of her list by prompt payment. If you are in a place in life that service through Alpha Beta is no longer working for you, please send a letter of resignation that will be read before the membership. Becky has to report *OUR* information and *OUR* actions to DKG International. Becky is committed to excellence and needs to report accurate dues and membership.

If you are sitting on the fence, make a decision. No response sends a different message than a resignation. Our Chapter is stronger when our members are committed and active, either in the chapter or in work or in our communities; we don't want resignations, but we need commitment. If now is not the time, please let us know and we'll hope that the future brings you back to the fold.

In closing, Bill Gates said, "Great organizations demand a high level of commitment by the people involved." We are part of a world-wide great organization. Your commitment to Alpha Beta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma makes a difference in the world. For this I give thanks!

Your sister in commitment, Lorine — [alphabetapreslorine@gmail.com](mailto: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

**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 10**.



# Beginning Teacher Institute

## Johnston County Schools Beginning Teacher Institute

Sonya Kiser, Chairman of the **Alpha Beta Chapter Beginning Teachers Committee** and several committee members participated in the Beginning Teacher Institute being held for Johnston County Schools' first year teachers. Alpha Beta members had a fabulous experience meeting, greeting, and snacking with these new teachers.

Alpha Beta provided donut holes, yogurt parfait, and water for the new teachers. The Alpha Beta brochure was passed out to these new teachers as they were welcomed to their first roles with Johnston County Schools.



Pictured (L to R): Carol Massenburg, Kathy Hamilton, Lorine Davis, and Sonya Kiser.



## Honoring Women Educators

At our November meeting, the Awards Committee will be able to fulfil the second DKG Purpose: **"To honor women who have given or who evidence a potential for distinctive service in any field of education."** We will be presenting **Members Excellence Awards**. Please remember to send your completed form to Ramona Cash.

Also, the Awards Committee will be recommending members for the Eta State NC Golden Key Award for Region III, and the Eta State NC Rising Star Award.

# Let's Stay Connected



Alpha Beta Chapter NC

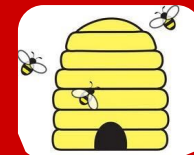
🔒 Closed Group

Joined ▾ Share ✓ Notifications ...





# Saving the Bees



## BEES HAVE PERSONALITIES

Honeybees are intriguing! Each newsletter will feature interesting facts about bees. If you become fascinated with bees, contact Karen Creech and share in her quest to help reverse the current trend of declining numbers of honeybees.

"Even in beehives, there are workers and shirkers. Researchers at the University of Illinois found that not all bees are interchangeable drones. Some bees are thrill-seekers. Others are a bit more timid. A 2011 study even found that agitated honeybees can be pessimistic, showing that, to some extent, bees might have feelings."

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

## Sharing Books and Magazines

The **Literacy Committee** asks that members to bring books and magazines to each meeting.



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



## Show & Sell

Our **Show and Sell** is close at hand and it is one of my favorite projects. I'm most excited about seeing some of the talents our members have, especially in the homemade goods, including pickles, freshly baked brownies, and pies. There is no pressure to bring anything fancy. Most important is that we have a variety of items so that everyone has something of interest to bid on. Remember, it is our biggest fundraiser of the year and supports our endowment fund, allowing us to give scholarships to worthy recipients. I can't think of a better project to help grow our profession.

## 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 Kathie Lee Gifford and Liza Minnelli at a Broadway play opening.**
2. **Danced in Savannah on stage and there was no alcohol involved.**



Find name of "Mystery Member" on **Page 5.**



# Tech Tip



## Mentimeter

[www.mentimeter.com/](http://www.mentimeter.com/)

## Mentimeter

**Mentimeter** is an easy-to-use Web 2.0 tool that makes classroom teachers look like stars. There is no installations or downloads required. Even better it's **FREE!** You will be able to create fun and interactive presentations.

Mentimeter is used by more than 8 million people who use Mentimeter to create fun and interactive presentations. We help you make your events, presentations, lectures, and workshops innovative and memorable.

### Reasons Why You Should Try Mentimeter

☑ **It's free**

You can use Mentimeter completely free of charge, no credit card needed to get started.

☑ **Fully web-based**

Mentimeter is fully web-based which means no downloads or installations required, get started in seconds from any location using your own device: smartphone, computer or tablet.

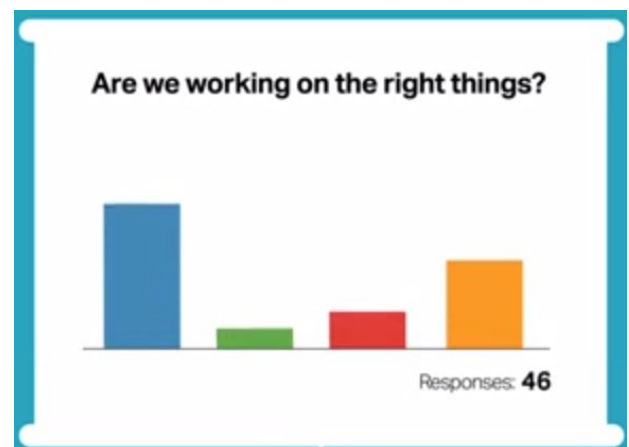
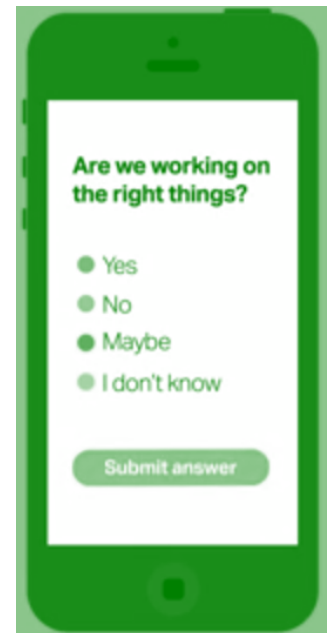
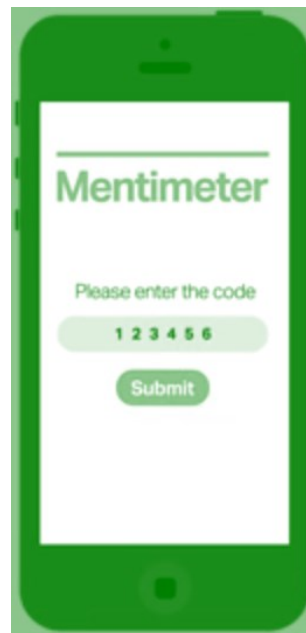
☑ **Unlimited audience size**

There is no limit to the number of interactions or votes on your presentation, use Mentimeter in front of large as well as small audiences.

☑ **Trustable and safe**

Mentimeter is a secure platform that can handle thousands of votes per minute. Traffic is encrypted with SSL Certificates on all of their services.

As a classroom teacher you can make your teaching more interactive by letting the students actively participate through using **Mentimeter** as a formative assessment tool.





# Groves' New Nomination

We are so excited to announce that **Sheila Groves, Eta State NC Immediate Past President**, has been nominated as **Southeast Regional Director** for The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Sheila was endorsed for this position by the Eta State NC Executive Board at their fall meeting.

Sheila is currently serving as a member of the **International Leadership Development Committee**. She helped conduct the trainings at the regional conferences in Hawaii and South Carolina for the new state organization presidents. She has also served on the International Constitution Committee. Election of new regional directors occurs at the International Conventions. The **2018 International Convention** will be held in **Austin, Texas, July 16-20**.



**Sheila Groves**  
SE Regional Director



# DKG Educational Foundation

DKG is happy to announce that funds are available through the **DKG Educational Foundation**. Now is the time to take advantage of the opportunity to apply for the Educational Foundation funds. You can apply as an individual, chapter or state organization.

The first deadline is **January 3, 2018**. This grant provides **up to \$10,000** that may be awarded to groups or individuals for projects that not only benefit children and education but also encourage intercultural understanding and educational excellence.

**The Cornetet Individual Professional Development Award** is due **February 1, 2018**. Members and nonmembers can apply for this award and will be eligible to participate in events and activities that occur between **March 15, 2018 and October 15, 2018**. Go to [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org) for more details.



**International Web site:**  
<http://www.dkg.org>

**Eta State NC Web site:**  
<http://www.ncdkg.org>

### DKG Survey



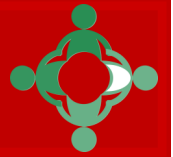
Did you take the survey on the DKG Web site? If not, you have time to respond to this month's question: **Is it important that chapters vote on candidates for membership?**

Your choices are, **Yes, No**, or **Let's talk about it**. Your opinion counts.

**Let your voice be heard.**



# Message From Eta State President



Our new **President, Connie Savell**, shared that one of her goals this year is to encourage savvy leadership. She believes a **"savvy leader"** is someone who is knowledgeable, as well as someone who has common sense and has the ability to make good judgments. She wants us to remember as we begin nominating officers across NC that our nominating committees will be identifying as many **"savvy leaders"** as possible within our chapters. After all, she believes DKG members are **"key women educators"** who are invited because of their leadership potential.

President Connie believes we will face challenges as we begin to fill positions, but wants us to encourage our nominating committee to remind our members that we believe they are not only worthy, but capable of holding the positions requested. It is her hope that every position is filled; that everyone who accepts will be supported and nurtured, and that each one will lead with confidence. Her goal this year is to encourage savvy leadership and YOU are invited to **SPARKLE** along with her to make this happen.



**President  
Connie Savell  
2017-2019**

**Email:  
[mcdpm59@gmail.com](mailto:mcdpm59@gmail.com)**

## GOALS

Encourage **S**avvy leadership

**S**

Inspire **P**assionate, meaningful programs and projects

**P**

Analyze and **A**rticulate current educational issues

**A**

Further **R**espect for diversity in membership

**R**

Promote **K**nowledge through lifelong learning

**K**

Establish and **L**aunch a member wellness initiative

**L**

**E**

Advocate **E**xcellence in education

# DKG International President



**President Carolyn Pittman** asks us to look closely at the different ways we can approach our members. She believes that when we look at membership, for example, it may appear a member is not active, but it may be the best a member can do at that stage of her life and career. She shares that all members can and do fulfill commitments even though their paths are different. As I think about our membership, I think she is right. We have members with families that sometimes share they do not have the time and money to attend meetings (chapter, state organization) because personal resources are required elsewhere at the time. I think that we have members who find themselves at another stage of life when meeting attendance is affected by loss of access to easy transportation because of health or age. We also have retired members who tell us they have too many commitments to attend regularly.

President Pittman believes that if we expect traditional practices to always "fit" our members is much like one-size-fits-all garments. She points out that if we implement inflexible chapter practices (e.g., always meeting at the same time and place or initiating new members in specific months only) it will not "fit" all members all the time and will cause some members to be left out. We have to consider that commitment to DKG may have different "looks." She agrees that attendance is important because what occurs at meetings builds personhood beyond the schoolhouse. However, we need to know that attendance is only one way to evidence commitment. Paying dues, overseeing short-term projects, being present in the community and school, and maintaining communication are also significant indications of member involvement. She asks us to honor members where they are in their stages of life.



**INTERNATIONAL  
PRESIDENT**

**Carolyn Pittman  
2016-2018**

# Oct.—Mar. Birthdays



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

October	November	December
Glenda Toler - 4	Karen Parker - 2	Jenny Batten-Wiley - 1
Karen Creech - 22	Janice White - 5	Ann Pittman - 6
Mary Ann Lee - 22	Denise Byrd - 9	Jennifer Roberts - 7
Terri Sessoms - 25	Eloise Bonds - 11	Abby Salas - 15
	LarKeysha Sheppard - 11	Pamela Batchelor - 29
	Barbara Barnes - 14	Johna Faulconer - 29
	Ana Lucia Milazzotto - 14	
	Ashley Radford - 18	
	Sonya Kiser - 28	



January	February	March
Debbie Woodruff - 1	Mary Nell Ferguson - 4	Darla Peedin - 9
Ann Brown - 2	Ramona Cash - 5	Carol Massenburg - 13
Melissa Finch - 3	Dorothy Driver - 6	Angie Proctor - 14
Cynthia Toudle - 5	Becky Kuszmaul - 11	Renee Wiggs - 28
Mary Daughtry - 25	Jennifer Bare - 18	Maylene Sanders - 30
	Mary Helen Wyatt - 23	
	Laura Faye Canaday - 27	
	Heather Pennica - 27	
	Betty Ferrell - 28	

**\*SPECIAL NOTE :** If you have a birthday in the months listed above and you do not see your name on the list, please contact Karen at: [alphabetachapternc@gmail.com](mailto:alphabetachapternc@gmail.com). She will make sure you are included on the list.



# Purpose and Mission



The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

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

**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.

**Alpha Beta Chapter  
Organized April 19, 1952**



# 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.

<b>Barbara Barnes</b>	<b>Betty Ferrell</b>	<b>Maylene Sanders</b>
<b>Laura Faye Canaday</b>	<b>Freddie Creech</b>	<b>Glenda Hales</b>
<b>Bess Ragsdale</b>		

If you would like to add someone to this list, please contact Karen at: [alphabetachapternc@gmail.com](mailto:alphabetachapternc@gmail.com)



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](mailto:alphabetachapternc@gmail.com)



**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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