

Alpha Gamma Matters

President's Message

I hope everyone is enjoying this great weather we are having. Eddy and I are visiting the Smokies and it is so nice. Rain today, but using that for some work time. Hope you have been able to avoid all the sickness that is going around. I know we missed a few at the dance because of sickness.

Linda McCrary, Andrea Flynn and I attended the Legislative Symposium at the Maxwell House last week. Our panel was smaller than usual because of sickness but it was still an informative, thought provoking session. More and more about choice and vouchers. For you that are still young in the profession I feel you are going to see more and more about this. The people that talk about vouchers connect them with the word choice, but I can't see it working for "all" students and I do worry about the accountability of the way the money is spent and if it is obtaining the results it promises. Dr. McQueen spoke at our early 6:30 breakfast. She spoke of new testing and the new ESSA act. More changes to come. Linda and I then went to the Legislature and met with Senator Mae Beavers and caught Kelly Keisling in the hall between meetings. We voiced our concerns about bills being presented during this term.

The end of the week brought our 4th Daddy Daughter Dance. I felt it was a great success. It looked wonderful, the food was great and we had no problems that I know about. It appeared that everyone had a good time. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate all the work everyone did.

Eddy and I headed out Sunday morning for a week in Pigeon Forge and we brought the books that our chapter had donated to bring to the fire victims. Those books were delivered today to Elaine Harper, president of Gamma Nu, the Sevier County chapter. We had a great visit and she seemed to appreciate our contribution.

We will not meet again until April, but it will be here before we know it. I hope you have been thinking about prospective members. Bring those names to the next meeting. Our program in April is Rita Watson. She is going to do a program on doodling – creative doodling. I need a head count so that she will have enough materials for the group so I am asking that you please let me know by Spring Break if you think you will be there. Audrey will have the program listed in the newsletter for all the other activities for the meeting.

The forms for Xi State are on line and I hope that some of you are planning to go. It would be good to get our registration forms in close to the same time so that we can hopefully get the rooms that we request. Let me know if you are thinking about attending. Everything is a la carte, so we may want to plan some things as a group.

*Alpha Gamma Leaders
2016-2018*

*President
Wynona Clayborne*

*1st Vice President
Amanda Groesbeck*

*2nd Vice President
Andrea Flynn*

*Treasurer
Teresa Gregory*

*Recording Secretary
Nicole Blankenship*

*Corresponding Secretary
Audrey Howser*

*Parliamentarian Advisor
Linda McCrary*

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While in Gatlinburg area this week, Wynona delivered our books we collected for the literacy program to Elaine Harper from Gamma Nu in Sevier County. These books are to be distributed to the victims of the recent Smoky Mountain fire.



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Delta Kappa Gamma

Mission

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

Vision

Leading women educators impacting education worldwide.

-News of Interest-

Contact:

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Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events

- March 15: Order of the Rose nominations due
- April 11 meeting @LMBC
- April 18 Kindergarten Orientation
- June 1-3: Xi State Convention @ Sewanee

Year Preview

4-11-17 April Meeting
 4-18-17 Kindergarten Orientation
 5-9-17 Founder's Day
 6-1 thru 6-3-17 Xi State

Chapter Activities

Be sure to let Wynona know if you will attend the April meeting for a head count on supplies for the creative doodling session by Rita Watson.

Member News

March Birthdays: Marion Casady (14), Sandra Smith (26), GeorgiaAnn Boles (28), Donna McCrory (30)

April Birthdays: Carroll Gunter (17), Vicki Pagan (20)

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers: Dale Reid and Dawn Thompson at the the loss of their father, Mr. Doyle Gaines. Julie Collins at the passing of her Mother in law, Dorothy Collins, And Billy Gunter, Carroll's husband, as he has returned to work after recovering from a recent stroke.

Next Month's Meeting

Our next meeting will be at Lafayette Missionary Baptist Church on April 11, 2017 at 3:45 pm.

Presiding..... Wynona Clayborne, president

Inspiration..... Julie Carter

Program..... Art of Doodling, Rita Watson

Music..... Cynthia Hudson

Hostesses..... Lafayette #3

Legislative Update

Good

HB263 (Butt)/SB204 (Bowling)- Time taking state mandated tests cannot exceed the grade level of a student, up to a maximum of eight hours per school year, HB174 (Reedy)/ SB14 (Green)- Creates list of rights and protections for educators, including not to be evaluated based on students not taught nor by someone who isn't experienced in the same content area. HB67 (Smith)/SB250 (Tracy)- Alternative Growth (Portfolio) models for use by teachers in untested subjects (up in Ed I&P sub next week, 2/8) HB353 (Beck)- Prevents ASD from expanding grades served at a school HB354 (Beck)- Reverse parent trigger on ASD takeover.

Bad

HB161 (Brooks, H)/SB161 (Kelsey)- Shelby County Voucher Pilot HB310 (Hawk)- Radical Charter expansion/ removal of accountability HB42 (Butt)- Bicycle Helmet Bill; last year's payroll attack on teachers HB336 (Dunn)- Reinforces current requirements for LEAs offering payroll deduction, authorizes them to keep 10% of association dues as a fee for processing HB336 (Dunn)- Statewide Voucher Bill HB357 (Dunn)/SB4 (Gresham)- Prohibits adoption of standards or instruction of social and emotional learning HB358 (Sexton, C)- Payroll ban for state employees (TSEA) HB308 (Hawk)- ESSA implementation bill, expands entrance into the ASD.

Monitor

HB410 (Byrd)/SB222 (Bowling)- Mandatory unstructured physical activity bill repeal HB309 (Hawk)- Changes weights to teacher evaluation for through the 17-18 school year HB363 (Zachary)- Allows concealed gun permit holders to carry firearms in government buildings. Could impact schools. HB364 (Zachary)/SB115 (Briggs)- Modifies IEA eligibility HB97 (Brooks, H)/SB249 (Tracy)- Requires TDOE to form partnership with national non-profit to increase rigorous course offerings for college readiness

Submitted by Linda McCrary

Andrea Flynn, Wynona Clayborne, and Linda McCrary at the recently attended Legislative Symposium

