

Alpha Gamma Matters

President's Message

Alpha Gamma Leaders
2016-2018

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I want you to all know how much I enjoyed everyone being at our house Tuesday night. And we missed the ones that were not able to be with us. It was a wonderful way to end the Christmas season. Now I must get all this Christmas put away and get my house back in order.

For those that did not bring their books the other night you are welcome to bring them to the board and leave them on my desk. We decided at the meeting that I would take the books to Pigeon Forge with me in February and the books would be distributed to children that had lost their homes in the fires. I have been in touch with the President of the chapter in that area and I think she is going to get some names together and I hope get me ages. So, if you haven't bought your books you may want to wait until I have these names.

If you want to go to the Legislative Symposium on February 13-14, please let Andrea or me know by January 14. You do not have to go for both days. If a carload just wants to go for the panel that would be great.

Donna and Andrea have been working on the DD Dance and information will be attached to this newsletter.

One more thing – Seriously be thinking about prospective new members to bring to the April meeting.

This is short and sweet, but Audrey wanted to get it to you before the first snow of the season hits.

Wynona

Editor Note: *If you missed Christmas in January, you really missed an incredible time. The food was extraordinary. I cannot even begin to describe the wonderful dessert. Ms. Margaret Cook was absolutely wonderful with our music program and it was very nice to have our guest, Mrs. Reba Bellar, honorary member and Mrs. Doris Hendrix, past Xi State president. Wynona's house was lovely as always and it was very nice for her to host us.*

Happy New Year!

As we enter 2017, many will make resolutions to become a better "me". Most of us will not stick to the goals for various reasons. The **Today Show** offers these five tips to have a happier, healthier life in 2017.

- 1) Subtract something....let go of something you do not need. It could be an activity, items in your closet, or even a bad relationship.
- 2) Focus on people and your own wellness. Relationships and good mental health have the biggest impact on one's happiness not more money.
- 3) Set quarterly resolutions, not New Year resolutions. Maybe you have a list of 12 things you want to accomplish this year, only focus on three at a time. A ninety day goal is much more doable.
- 4) Drop the "all-or-nothing" attitude. You do not have to be perfect, just strive to be better.
- 5) Make a conscious effort to unplug. Turn off those electronics and have a technology free time, whether it be once a day, week, or month. Then do a self-evaluation after that time. How do you feel mentally and emotionally? Maybe the "unplug" should become a habit.

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-

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Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events

- Feb. 1: Xi State Scholarship application due
- Feb. 13-14 Legislative Symposium
- March 15: Order of the Rose nominations due
- June 1-3: Xi State Convention @ Sewanee

Year Preview

1-23-17 Dance tickets go on sale
 2-18-17 Daddy Daughter Dance
 4-11-17 April Meeting
 5-9-17 Founder's Day
 6-1 thru 6-3-17 Xi State

Chapter Activities

Literacy Program: Get books to Wynona at the board to be delivered to fire victims in Sevier County.

Daddy-Daughter Dance: Feb. 18, 6-8pm, Candyland theme. Tickets go on sale Jan. 23rd.



Member News

January Birthdays: Beverly Reid (13)

February Birthdays: Amanda Groesbeck (5), Dale Reid (11), Dawn Thompson (11), Reba Bellar (17)

Our longest member is Marion Casady. She joined Delta Kappa Gamma in 1959 making her a 58 year member.

Next Month's Activity

The Daddy Daughter Dance will be February 18th. A detailed letter is attached to email on items need for this project but here is an overview. We are using a candy land theme with mostly primary and secondary colors. Items needed: candy decorations, candy land games, multi-colored lights, empty sour cream containers, clamshells, 2 L bottles, whiffle balls, paper lanterns, something to use for lollipop sticks, piper cleaners, clear vases, colorful candies, paper towel and toilet paper tubes, and colored paper. Nicole Blankenship is in charge of refreshments and will contact us about what is needed there.



Tennessee Educational Issues

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) passed on Dec. 10, 2015 replaces the No Child Left Behind Act. ESSA provides support for schools with low graduation rates or low performance scores but the type of support will now be decided on the state and district level which differs from NCLB. An overview of ESSA can be found on https://stateoftennessee.formstack.com/forms/essa_draft_plan_feedback as well as a form for providing feedback. Tennessee will meet the requirements for ESSA by implementing Tennessee Succeeds. Commissioner McQueen has been leading a series of regional town hall meetings to discuss the state's response to ESSA. There are two meetings left; January 6 in Chattanooga and Jan. 11 in Bristol. You may view the information for these meetings including the powerpoint presentations, and all handouts that outline the key strategies in the five areas of opportunity on the Tennessee Department of Education website. You may also complete the survey that the town hall attendees will complete [here](#).

Triple Cheese Potato Bake

2 can cream of chicken soup 1- 8 oz container sour cream
 1 jar 2 oz. jar diced pimientos (Optional) ¾ cup green onions
 ¾ cup shredded Sharp Cheddar cheese
 ¾ cup shredded Swiss cheese ½ tsp. pepper
 1 pkg. (30 to 32 oz.) frozen hash brown potatoes
 ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
 Preheat oven to 375. Combine soup, sour cream, onions, Cheddar cheese, Swiss cheese, pimientos, and pepper in a large bowl; blend well. Stir in potatoes. Spoon into baking dish in an even layer. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Bake uncovered 1 to 1 ¼ hours or until bubbling and golden brown. Serve immediately.