



ALPHA PHI INFORMER

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EDITED BY
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MCMAHAN

IN THIS ISSUE:

Jots from Jeni	1
Upcoming Events	2
Member News	3
Website	3
Pop Tabs	4
Southeast Regional Conference	4
CSAS Spelling Bee	4
Distinctive Service to Education Award	5
Talented Members	5
Mini-Grant Project at International Convention	5
Insurance Records Hacked	6
No Child Left Behind	6
Legislative Symposium	7
Chattanooga Library	7
Birthdays	7

Jots from Jeni

I certainly hope the last of our winter weather is past us now, and I imagine you feel the same way!

Be sure to read the *What's Working* column of the upcoming March/April DKG NEWS when it arrives in your mailbox (it's on the back page). It will sound very familiar to you and should make your buttons poke with pride!

Your executive board had a wonderfully productive meeting in January. All but one board member (and she was sick) were in attendance!

Those of us who participated in the January 29 tour of the Chattanooga Girls' Leadership Academy in Highland Park were impressed with what is being accomplished.

Our February meeting at the Public Library was absolutely wonderful! I am so impressed with how Director Corinne Hill, in spite of some negative press, is bringing the library into the 21st century. The fourth floor has been turned into an innovation center, with a 3D printer and other state-of-the-art technology that is available to the public at no charge but for the materials used.

At our March meeting (no steps to climb), two of our three mini-grant recipients will present how they are using their grants to further educational excellence in their classrooms. We will have the drawing for \$100 cash for all currently employed educator members. Judy Nixon will help us prepare for the May Belk Charity Sale to benefit our mini-grant project. We'll also be reviewing our chapter strategic action plan, under the guidance of our Planning Committee. Our project for the month is the **donation of good used clothing for Room at the Inn**. Please bring at least one or two items with you.

Our **April 25** Founders Day Brunch will be in a new location, the Chattanooga State Faculty Dining Room (handicapped accessible). We'll give the Distinctive Service to Education Award to an outstanding community member, give tribute to our Founders, and hear Xi State First Vice President Dr. Elaine Alexander speak. Help us reach our participation goal by attending.

Our state organization convention is also fast approaching, **June 4-6**, in Sewanee. We used to have 12-15 members in attendance each year, and I'd love to see us get back to that much participation. We have, thanks to an anonymous donation, money to help our members attend the convention, as well as other Society events such as leadership seminars, regional conferences and international conventions.

Jots from Jeni (con't)

Have you ever been to Savannah, GA? If you have, you love the city! If you haven't, it should be on your list of go-to places to visit, and DKG is helping you get there by hosting the SE Regional Conference there **July 15-18** this summer. Several of us are going, and we can carpool down and have a great time!

Please put our upcoming events on your calendar and help us strengthen Alpha Phi through your participation and enthusiasm!

Upcoming Events

Our March meeting will be at Hixson UMC in their Friendship Hall. The meeting date is Saturday, March 7th, at 10:00 am. We will have a short presentation from our mini grant recipients, Katie Graham and Amy Dendhy, about how they used their grant money. Please come and hear their stories—which is our stories also!

Also, we will have a drawing for **\$100** for an active teacher. Active teachers, the more meetings you attend, the more times your name goes in the pot for the drawing!

Our April meeting The four-chapter joint Founders' Day Brunch is April 25 at 10:30 at Chatt. State's Faculty Dining Room. Please note that we will not be at Brainerd United Methodist Church. Put it on your calendar! Directions and more information will be coming your way! It's always a great time to network with other members across the area, as well as meet our newest recipient of our Distinguished Service to Education Award and hear an informative speaker.

Other Dates to Remember

Advanced Leadership Training Class

March 20-21 Advanced Leadership Management Seminar
Henry Horton State Park in Chapel Hill, TN
Lin Marten and Susie Westbrook are scheduled to attend from Alpha Phi.

Xi State Convention

June 4 - 6 at Sewanee, TN
Society Representative, Barbara Whiting of Minnesota, is a multi-talented and knowledgeable woman. One of her passions is about abolishing human slavery in all its forms. Registration for the convention is at www.xistate.org.

Southeast Regional Conference

July 14-18 at Westin Hotel, Savannah, GA
See page 4 in this newsletter for information on registration.

Member News

⇒ **Martha Becton** has pancreatic cancer. Cards would be appreciated.



⇒ **Sandy Smith** was featured in the Times Free Press entertainment section recently. Sandy has lost 16 lbs by using Weight Watchers.

⇒ Congratulations to **Danita Clark** who gave birth on February 21st to baby Matthew. Matthew weighed in at 6 lb. 11 oz. Mother, father (Lance) and baby are all doing fine. Pic to come we hope....



⇒ **Marcia Christian** spent several days in Florida while we were stuck in snow and ice.

⇒ **Lin Marten** has also been traveling in Florida with husband Vern and dog Cinnamon.



Cinnamon

Website

www.alphahidkg.com



Pop Tabs and Box Tops

The March meeting will be our final opportunity for the year to donate pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Please bring them to this meeting. We will also have one last opportunity to collect Box Tops for Education

Registration for Regional Conference in Savannah

DKG is upgrading the member database. The public website (dkg.org) is still available without logging in, but to register for a regional conference you will need to login. You will need the following:

- Your 6 digit member ID number which is on your membership card
- The default password of `dkg2014society`

You are encouraged to change your password after your first login. For security purposes this information will not be published online or in state and international newsletters. If you have misplaced your membership card, call Susie. She can give you your Member ID number.

CSAS Spelling Bee (facilitated by Alpha Phi)

Chapter member, Raquel Harris, CSAS' spelling bee coordinator, asked Alpha Phi to help by providing the pronouncer and judges for the January event.

Sandy Smith, Susie Westbrook and Patsy Woodham volunteered to be judges, and Jeni Souders served as the pronouncer. The students were super prepared and missed so few words that the bee lasted nearly two hours! Congratulations, Raquel, on coordinating such a successful event, and your volunteers have already volunteered to do it again next year!

Nomination for “Distinctive Service to Education” Award

The DSEE award is given to a non-educator in the community who is recognized as a friend to education. Previous awardees include David Carroll, Rodney Von Valkenberg, Andy Berke, Everett Fairchild, and Debbie Colburn. The chapter executive board has recommended David Cook, Tim Boyd and Gaye Phillips. If you have another person you would recommend, please give their name to Jeni before the next coordinating council meeting on March 17. The council will choose the awardee and present the plaque at Founders' Day.

Thanks to Our Talented Members!

Thanks to our talented members for Silent Auction items!

Sara Makemson and Susie Westbrook have volunteered to make a quilt and notecards for our chapter's participation in the state organization Silent Auction at convention this summer. Proceeds benefit leadership training in the state. If anyone else would like to help with auction items, please let Jeni know.

Mini-Grant Project Highlighted at International Convention

International Headquarters has asked each chapter to send in a picture with caption of some program/project they are doing to further educational excellence and chapter success. We have sent a picture of our latest mini-grant recipients with the caption, "Alpha Phi Chapter, TN, supports early-career educators and excellence in education through the awarding of annual mini-grants to 1st-3rd-year teachers in the Chattanooga, TN, area."

Insurance Records Hacked!

— Submitted by Sharon McMahan

We are aware that Anthem BCBS (Blue Cross Blue Shield) was recently hacked. This has implications for some of our members. We are all concerned about what to do if our information is ever stolen. Gone are the days when we wait until the end of the month to check our bank records. You must check them frequently. I have a friend who checks her accounts on a daily basis! Be aware that the scammers are already calling people pretending to be Anthem or BCBS. BCBS will never call you. You will receive a notification by mail. Never give out your information on the phone.

What can you do? Check your credit report at least annually. Anthem is offering free credit monitoring for those who are affected by the hacking. A fraud alert will notify potential creditors to carefully check ID's of new accounts. This does not necessarily stop a new account being opened in your name. What else can you do? You can do a credit freeze with the 3 main credit bureaus. This means no new credit accounts may be opened. If you desire to open a new account, you must notify the credit bureaus using a PIN they had previously given you. This will temporarily "thaw" your record. This is extra effort on your part but it may give you peace of mind.

There are also several companies (For example: Life Lock) that will monitor your credit for you and alert you to any problems. This is of course a fee service. You may want to check out <http://www.top10creditreport.com> for a list of companies that provide this service and information on how they are rated.

Be vigilant and check your records frequently.

What Has Happened to “No Child Left Behind?”

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the current version of which is commonly referred to as No Child Left Behind (NCLB) is going to be revised in this session of U.S. Congress. The major bill is not expected to be introduced until much later this year (possibly sometime this summer). Some other separate bills have been introduced already. A bill which would permit alternate assessments and standards for students with “significant cognitive disabilities” has been introduced in the Senate (S.516). Several other bills seek to increase the number of females and minorities in the STEM fields. At this time bills are being filed and referred to committees. It is interesting that in the Senate the Education Committee Chair [Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN)] and the committee’s ranking member [Senator Patty Murray (D-WA)] are working together to formulate the Senate version of ESEA.

Legislative Symposium

February, 2015

— Submitted by Sandy Smith

Sandy Norris Smith represented Alpha Phi Chapter at the 2015 Legislative Symposium. Karen Phillips, Chair of the Xi State Legislative Committee greeted all present and introduce Xi State President, Beverly Smith.

A distinguished panel consisting of Senator Dolores Gresham, Chair of the Senate Education Committee, Representative Raumes Akbari, member of the House Education Committee, Representative Johnny Shaw, Jim Wrye, TEA Government Relations Office, Donna Cotner, Executive Director, TN Retired Teachers' Association (and a DKG member) were introduced and engaged in lively commentary responding to the questions provided in advance by members and asked by the Moderator Teresa Brown (Beta Kappa chapter and member of the Xi State Legislative Committee.

Senator Todd Gardenshire, 2nd Vice-Chair of the Senate Education Committee was scheduled to be on the panel, but cancelled earlier in the day.

Most questions touched on full funding for the BEP, charter schools, vouchers . teacher evaluations and use of TVAAS scores ,and collaborative conferencing. Panel member Cotner and Wrye quoted numbers and research to support the points that they made. Collaborative conferencing is being successful in the school districts where it is being implemented. Note that a lawsuit was filed the day after the symposium on behalf of two courageous teacher regarding their disagreement with test scores for subjects outside their teaching area and including the student scores of children they may not even be teaching.

As usual it was an interesting and informative evening. Appointments with elected officials the following day were not available as most elected officials were sitting in the Senate Committee Hearings on the Bill carried by Representative Gerald McCormick and others introducing legislation from Governor Bill Haslam to expand Medicaid, using federal dollars to cover this expansion, and provide health care to those living 138% below the poverty level. After 3 days of hearings, the bill died in committee.

What's New with Our Library?

— Submitted by Lin Marten

As you know, several Alpha Phi members and guests visited the Chattanooga Public Library (CPL) recently. As you may or may not know, the library has been in the news quite a bit of late. They are currently supporting Chattanooga, which represents a recent split from Hamilton County. However, they have partnered with Hamilton County schools to allow all students access to the library facilities free of charge. Unfortunately, this free access does not extend to the teachers.

The changes in the library are amazing. Corinne Hill is the current library director, and she provided us with an overview and a tour of the facilities. Their focus is to provide services to the community – not just books to those who walk in the door. They have a beautiful facility with an innovation center on the 4th floor and a coffee shop in the lobby. The coffee shop actually doubles for the check-out desk! Their mission is to be the community's catalyst for lifelong learning.

Corinne Hill was named the 2014 Librarian of the Year! Sponsored this year by Baker and Taylor, the annual award recognizes one individual who is transforming their library, their community and the profession.

You might ask, “What is the Innovation Center on the 4th floor all about?” Glad you asked. They provide services to allow the public to make 3-D copies of items on a 3-D printer (my first opportunity to see one of those in action!), to do laser printing, to author “zines” (you are going to have to check that out on your own, but children who like to write and express themselves seem to love them) and to view 4X video. 4X is the next generation of video technology beyond high definition. It is actually four times better than hi-def (thus its name)! The facility also provides space for community meetings.

This is not the library your mother used! It is actively stepping into the 21st century.

Happy Birthday to our Members

February

3rd: Mary Starnes
3rd: Teresa Wilhoite
9th: Marjorie Ogle
24th: Warisa Jarrett



March

3rd: Dianne Kelehear
3rd: Patsy Wookham
18th: Laura Belue
26th: Sharon McMahan
29th: Danita Clark