



# ALPHA PHI INFORMER

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## Jots from Jensi

### Resolution for the new year

As 2015 begins, I am reminded of this story:

In the 1960s, a college professor had his sociology class go into inner city Baltimore to get case histories of two hundred young students. They were asked to write an evaluation of each student's future. In every case the students wrote, "They don't have a chance."

Twenty-five years later, another sociology professor came across the earlier study. He had his students follow up on the project to see what had happened to those students. With the exception of 20 who had moved away or died, the class learned that 176 of the remaining 180 had achieved throughout their lives. The professor was astounded and decided to pursue the matter further. Fortunately, all the students were in the area and he was able to ask each one, "How do you account for your success?" In each case the reply came with feeling, "There was a teacher...."

That teacher was still alive, so he sought her out and asked the elderly but still alert woman what formula she had used to help them succeed in life. The teacher broke into a gentle smile. "It's really very simple," she said. "I loved them."

No wonder they succeeded. Their teacher loved them.

---story borrowed from John Shaver

Aren't we fortunate to be able to touch lives like this? Humbled by the thought, I think about DKG members: In spite of the myriad obstacles set in our path by bureaucrats, politicians and the public, we remember what is really important--the young people in our classrooms.

If you have let other things come between you and the reason you entered our profession, I hope you make at least one New Year's Resolution:

To remember that we are **leading women educators** who change the lives of students for the better, thus **impacting education worldwide**.

## Upcoming Events

### Not Your Mother's Library!

**Our next meeting** will be Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 5:30 pm at the Chattanooga Public Library (CPL). The Chattanooga Public Library has undergone a renovation and is no longer your mother's library! It is very tech savvy. This will be a good tour for anyone who has not visited CPL recently and especially informative for active teachers. Bring a friend! Dr. Corrine Hill will lead the tour beginning on the first floor in the auditorium. Rumor has it that CPL even has a coffee bar!

### Can you believe that Spring is right around the corner?

**Our March meeting** will be at Hixson UMC in their Friendship Hall. The meeting date is Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am. Our 3 mini grant recipients will each give a SHORT presentation about how they used their grant funds. Please come and hear their story—which is your story also!

#### **Do You Need Money?**

*Also at our March meeting, 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!*

#### Legislative Symposium

February 3-4, 2015 at the Millennium House in Nashville  
Let Sandy Smith know if you are interested.

#### Advanced Leadership

March 20-21 Advanced Leadership Management Seminar  
Henry Horton State Park in Chapel Hill, TN  
Application deadline is February 21st!  
See [www.xistate.org](http://www.xistate.org) for more information.

#### 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](http://www.xistate.org).

#### Southeast Regional Conference

July 14-18 at Westin Hotel, Savannah, GA

Just about the most interesting city in the South (history, architecture, terrific food, unique shopping, quirks [i.e. ghosts!]). Plus—a wonderful conference planned and implemented by our own TN member, SE Regional Director Becky Sadowski

# Member News

Patsy Woodham, Sandy Smith, Susie Westbrook and Jensi Souders helped Alpha Phi member Raquel Harris with CSAS' Spelling Bee on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Jensi was the pronouncer and Patsy, Sandy and Susie were the judges.

Congratulations to Sharon McMahan, who has been nominated for the Xi State Nominations committee, which is a four-year elected position.

Our love and sympathy to Marcia Christian who lost her father in December. Maurice Christian was a retired educator in Catoosa County where he served as a history teacher and retired as assistant superintendent.

Our love and sympathy to Mary Starnes who lost her husband in January. Paul Starnes was a former state legislator who very ably represented Hamilton County. Mary is also having some health issues of her own, so keep her in your thoughts and prayers. Keep in mind that she still loves to get cards and phone calls.



## How does Alpha Phi measure up?

2014 International Convention keynote speaker Sarah Sladek, the author of *The Death of Membership as We Know It*, gave valuable tips on what is needed for our Society to build a younger membership. Among these are:

- Exclusivity:** What does DKG have that no one else has?
- Inclusion:** What does a member get with her membership?
- Trust:** Build consistency, survey members, and provide what is needed
- Pride:** Share what we are proud of that younger members need
- Fun:** Make sure that each encounter has some positive, fun element

### How does Alpha Phi measure up to building a younger membership?

## There is Hope!

### Fulton County Superintendent Speaks Out for Georgia Education

Dr. Robert Avossa is superintendent of Fulton County Schools. In a recent ranking of best high schools in Georgia, Fulton County had four schools in the top twenty. Avossa is highly respected and speaks with authority concerning the state of education in Georgia. On the first session of the Georgia Legislature he sent an open letter to state legislators. In the letter to the state legislators, Avossa wrote: "I ask that you think about education as an **investment** rather than as a **budget** item." He went on to state that there was too much testing and that the Student Learning Objectives process takes time away from instruction while offering little in the way of improving student achievement. He added that teachers are spending more time proving they are doing their jobs than being allowed to do them. Students are spending their time proving they can pass a standardized test rather than mastering content. He stated that fewer people are selecting teaching as a profession due to frozen pay schedules so we are losing our ability to recruit and retain top talent. He asked that the Georgia Legislature increase teacher pay and send a clear message that Georgia values both its students and its teachers.

(If you would like a complete copy of the letter, contact Sharon at [mcmahan530@bellsouth.net](mailto:mcmahan530@bellsouth.net).)

## Christmas Brunch



*Michael Gray, story teller*

Christmas brunch in December was a wonderful event. The food was amazing. Our Christmas Storyteller is Michael Gray the founder and producer of The River City Sessions presented monthly at The Camp House in downtown Chattanooga. The sessions are recorded live each month and then broadcast later on WUTC.

Check out his website:

<http://therivercitysessions.weebly.com/>



## What's In a Name?

— Letter from DKG International President

Dear State Organization Presidents,

I would like to introduce an idea for your consideration. One of the issues that we face with promoting our Society as a viable association in the world of professional organizations is that we hold fast to our Greek names. When I am giving my “elevator speech” about what we do and whom we represent, I inevitably get the response, “Oh, so you’re a sorority?”

As I travel and meet other DKG members throughout the United States and Canada, I often ask to which state organization they belong. I will receive “Omega state,” or “Eta state” as an answer. Now Eta state can be either North Carolina or Saskatchewan, and I have to admit that I have to look up that Omega is Colorado. Some Latin American countries have Greek names and others do not!

Our European state organizations have their country’s name as their moniker. An administrative board member was corresponding with a state organization president recently about her travel as Society representative for their upcoming state convention. The president used the initials of the Greek state organization name in her correspondence, e.g., AR (Alpha Rho), or AZ (Alpha Zeta), or AK (Alpha Kappa). The administrative board member thought that the state president was referring to the geographical state, e.g. AR (Arkansas), or AZ (Arizona), or AK (Alaska). The misunderstanding was corrected, and I am certainly glad she didn’t purchase her plane ticket before it was!

One step that we could take to bring us to a greater understanding of where we are located is to begin using our geographical names, e.g., Iowa state organization, Indiana state organization, British Columbia state organization. It may take those who love the Greek designation some adjustment. They may certainly continue to use it, but it would be most helpful if state organization presidents considered using the geographical title in their printed materials and conversation.

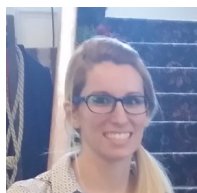
Lyn Babb Schmid, Ed.D.,  
2014-2016 International President

## Password Please!

Although the public area of the DKG website will be available to everyone, member interaction on the DKG website will only be accessible by logging in as a member. In order to create a secure environment and protect member data, the log in will require the use of the six digit member ID number. Members can find this number on the membership card they receive upon payment of dues to the chapter treasurer. The default password (dkg2014society) can be used to log in the first time. **The member ID number and password will be required in order to register online for any of the five regional conferences in 2015.** Susie Westbrook can provide you with your password if you have misplaced your card.



## Mini-Grant Recipients



Olivia is the Visual Arts and Graphic Design teacher at Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy (CGLA) where she has been the art teacher for the past two years. She has loved every minute of it. Olivia is a 2012 graduate of Reinhardt University in North Georgia. She has a Bachelors of Science in Business Administration and a Bachelors of Fine Art in Studio Art. Currently she is pursuing her EDS in Educational Technology at UTC. Olivia teaches 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students and loves working with the girls to help them achieve their highest potential. Her classroom is small and oddly shaped with art supplies are all over the space. Olivia requested \$159 to get a Iziggi Wireless Document Camera in order to project demonstrations and directions ensuring all students have access to what she is doing no matter where they are sitting.



Katie graduated from Lee University in Cleveland, TN with a bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with a K-6 licensure. She is teaching 4th grade math, science, and writing this year, and also coaches Wolftever's Science Olympiad team. She loves teaching intermediate grades and can't wait to experience another fantastic year with 4th grade! Katie is originally from the Atlanta, GA area and currently lives in Chattanooga with her husband. Katie requested \$200 for materials to enhance classroom instruction in science and math but they will also be used to enrich above grade level students in the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade Science Olympiad program. Katie has requested a scale, a brain box circuit kit, and a K'Nex set.



Amy is a mother of two amazing girls, Claire and Alexis. She is a special educator at East Ridge Middle School. In her spare time she is an active participant with numerous groups including Lenovo Insiders, ChikFila Moms, Green Moms, Harpar's Bazaar Ambassador, Special Olympics and her blog on SocialMoms.net. Amy requested \$250 to purchase a Kindle Fire, its case, adapter, and accompanying applications to help her students to learn more independently.



*Olivia Bagby, CGLA; Kathryn (Katie) Graham, Wolftever; Amy Dandy, East Ridge*

Meet our recipients at the March meeting and find out how the grant projects went!

# Alpha Phi Executive Board Meeting

January 24, 2015 — Wally's Restaurant in East Ridge  
 Minutes, as submitted by Danita Clark, Alpha Phi secretary



*L to R: Danita Clark, Lin Marten, Sandy Smith, Jensi Souders*

The meeting was called to order by Jensi Souders. The previous executive board meeting minutes were read and accepted. Susie presented the treasurer's report, including a generous anonymous donation earmarked for Chapter Success. Jeanette gave us a yearbook report, and Lin and Sharon updated us on the website and newsletter.

In committee reports: Judy Nixon reported on the success of our Belk charity sale fundraiser (\$724.04); Educational Excellence reminded us of our upcoming Febru-

ary and March meetings, as well as the DKG High School essay contest; Sara Makemson reported from Educational Services about our mini-grant recipients, and members volunteered to get in touch with anyone who has yet to attend a meeting; the Planning committee needs members to look over the Strategic Action Plan to help update it and suggest changes; and the Nominations committee needs nominations for a new slate of officers by November/December of this year.

In new business, the board went over the Chapter President's report with Jensi to make suggestions of projects, accomplishments, and other milestones to add to her report. Any nominations for the Distinctive Service to Education honor were discussed, as well as a nomination for Order of the Rose. Program and Membership committees will be creating a survey for next year's meeting dates and program ideas. Upcoming State Convention and Advanced Leadership Seminar events were discussed, as well as projects to strengthen our chapter and promote growth.

After a very thorough and informative meeting, the board dismissed. The next meeting is Tuesday, February 3rd at the downtown branch of the Chattanooga Public Library, at 5:30.



*L to R: Susie Westbrook, Sara Makemson, Jeanette Underwood, Judy Nixon*

## Website

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



## Results of Belk Charity Sale

— by Judy Nixon

\$470 was made from ticket sales by 13 chapter members plus one from our state president. \$250.04 from working day of sale by three members: Susie, Judy, and Mary. Since this was our first participation, this addition of \$724.04 helps our treasury. We missed our goal of all members selling 5 tickets each for \$25 for all 47 members. The money is currently used for mini grants for early career educators.

In order for all members to participate, the next charity event will be in May and we have only the March chapter meeting available to distribute tickets. The April meeting is the Founders' Day Luncheon. Suggestions at the Executive Board meeting were the following:

- ⇒ Each member buy at least one ticket. You get \$5 off a first purchase on the day of the sale.
- ⇒ Sell at least 5 tickets each.
- ⇒ Work at a front entrance in one block of time selling tickets one to three weeks before the actual sale.
- ⇒ Work at cashiers helping bag purchases day of sale (or where needed).

Lastly, because tickets are only made available a few weeks before the sale, we will be taking reservations for tickets pre-sale and have them available at a specific location if you cannot get them at a prior meeting.

Suggestions are welcome. We are all learning.

## Avoid copyright infringement

### Freely usable media...

You can find public domain and freely usable media files on the following websites:

- ◇ **Morgue File** -- free image reference materials for illustrators, teachers, and creative pursuits
- ◇ **Pixabay** - - digital and printed format free to use. More than 113,769 photos and 43,983 pieces of clipart available
- ◇ **Wikimedia Commons** - - a database of 23,862,199 (and growing) freely usable media files

## Happy Birthday to our Members

### January

5th: Cami Mitchell  
 6th: Dr. Judy Nixon  
 15th: Maryjo Baughman  
 22nd: Erin Grant  
 26th: Raquel Clark Harris  
 30th: Lin Marten



### February

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