



ALPHA PHI INFORMER

MARCH, 2015

EDITED BY
LIN MARTEN AND SHARON
MCMAHAN

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Jots from Jeni

As “official” spring arrives, I remember the feeling of joy I had as a youngster when I could get outside to play with all the boys in the neighborhood (I was the only girl our age in the neighborhood, but I was taller than all the boys even then!). We played tag, football (yes, tackle), softball, and all those other games that had me labeled as a tomboy! That was the time of year I hated having to practice piano—I wanted to be outside!

April is upon us, and that means that we have one last opportunity to participate in a chapter event—our joint-chapter Founders’ Day. We have only seven (7) active members who have not yet participated in a chapter event this school year. I hope those seven and many more will send in a reservation (see information in this newsletter) for Founders’ Day. The price is affordable and the location accessible to all.

Xi State First Vice President Dr. Elaine Alexander will be the Founders’ Day speaker and we will be giving our annual Distinctive Service to Education Award to a deserving community member who has given notable service to education. I hope you’ll be there.

I am also hoping that our chapter has an increased presence at Xi State Convention this year. The registration form was in the February *Xi State News* or you can access it online. Go for a day, two days, or all three, but GO! Then, plan to join us as we gather for the SE Regional Conference in Savannah in July!

Finally, be looking for the online survey of members next month. Help us plan next year’s meeting by completing the survey. You can’t gripe about time and location of meetings if you haven’t expressed your preferences!

Thank you for your interest and involvement in Alpha Phi Chapter this year. I’m looking forward to another great year as your president.

Upcoming Events

APRIL MEETING

ALERT!! WARNING!! Change of venue for Founders' Day

The site for our joint luncheon has been changed to Red Bank UMC on Dayton Blvd. on April 25th at 10:30 am. The cost is \$13.00. Your check is your reservation and should be sent to Susie by Monday, April 13th. Mail to Susie at 2320 Green Valley Road, Soddy Daisy, Tn 37379.

Directions to Red Bank UMC: Take Hwy 27 North to Morrison Springs Rd. Go east to Dayton Blvd (Morrison Springs dead ends at Dayton Blvd). Go RIGHT onto Dayton.

The church is on the left at the first red light. Enter at the HANDICAP parking entrance at the side of the church. There is an elevator for handicapped. The meeting is in the Fellowship Hall on the lower floor. Balloons will be up at the entrance doors.

Other Dates to Remember

Eloise Litz's 95th Birthday

You are invited to help celebrate Eloise's 95th birthday. It is on Sunday, June 28, from 2:30 - 4:30 at First Baptist Golden Gateway. You must rsvp to Jensi no later than June 1.

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.

Xi State Convention

Southeast Regional Conference

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

Website

www.alphahidkg.com



Member News

⇒ Most of you know that Martha Becton passed away. Memorial service for her will be Thursday, March 26, at 11:00 at First Baptist Church, Golden Gateway. Martha has been a member since 1963. Those who can really need to attend this service. Martha will also be remembered at the necrology service at Xi State this summer. If you have not been to one of these services, you need to come. It is quite moving. For more information on Martha's contribution to education, see the article later in this newsletter.



- ⇒ Jeanette Underwood has been under going tests recently. It is not a blood clot as suspected. It could be a lesion due to pneumonia and pleurisy. She will have another CT scan in April.
- ⇒ Amy Thompson's father is now receiving hospice care. Please keep Amy and her family in your prayers.
- ⇒ Rachel Price had an ablation on her heart to stabilize its rhythm. She is now home.
- ⇒ Pat Veldman had a fall and is dealing with a broken arm.
- ⇒ Lin Marten recently spent three nights in the hospital, but is home and doing great! Thanks for thoughts and prayers!

Xi State Advanced Leadership Seminar

— Article by Lin Marten



L to R: Susie Westbrook, Beverly Smith (President, Xi State, 2013—2015), Lin Marten and Becky Sadowsky (Xi State Leadership Facilitator)

Susie Westbrook and Lin Marten attended the Xi State Advanced Leadership Seminar on March 20 – 21. The training was held at Henry Horton State Park in their lodge. We began with dinner on Friday night and an after-dinner evening session that lasted until nearly 10 P.M. Central time. The seminar then lasted all day Saturday. Susie and I were safely at home by 9 P.M. Saturday.

The seminar centered on a book by Rosamund and Benjamin Zander, called "The Art of Possibility." This book highlights a different way of thinking about leadership and life in general. Benjamin is an educator and orchestra conductor and uses a lot of his real life experiences from his classes and students as examples. Rosamund is a family therapist, so she helps to ground the practices and experiences in this book.

We were honored to have Beverly Smith (President Xi State, 2013—2015) and Dorrie Powell (Xi State Presidential Nominee) as guests of the seminar. It was an enlightening experience and one that I hope many of you will decide to try at a future seminar!

Alpha Phi Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2015

Friendship House, Hixson United Methodist Church, 10:00 a.m.



Members in attendance at Alpha Phi's March meeting were: Faye Hitchcock, Mary Holland, Sherry McCullough, Sharon McMahan, Ann Moore, Judy Nixon, Barbara Northcut, Laurie Richardson, Sandy Smith, Jensi Souders, Amy Thompson and Patsy Woodham.

Following fellowship and food (furnished by Richardson, Smith, Souders and Westbrook), President Souders called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. She welcomed all, but especially Hitchcock, McCullough and Wilhoite, who were attending their first meeting of the year); ill and absent members were noted and updates given. Souders noted that all but seven chapter members have participated in at least one chapter meeting or project during this year, equaling **84%** member participation for the year. While the goal of 100% was missed, the percentage of improvement over the previous year was excellent.

Synopses of the December and February meetings (no business conducted), as well as directions to the Founders' Day Luncheon Site were distributed.

Richardson presented the treasurer's report in Westbrook's absence. Balance on hand October 31 was \$4,610.41. Disbursements October-March 7 totaled \$4,048.74. Income for the same period totaled \$4,287.04, with a balance on March 7, 2015, of \$4848.71. The report was accepted and filed.

Katie Graham (Wolftever Creek Elementary) and Amy Dendy (ER Middle) presented the materials that their mini-grants allowed them to purchase, and explained how the materials were furthering educational excellence in their classrooms.



*Kathryn (Katie) Graham, Wolftever Creek Elementary,
Amy Dendy, East Ridge Middle*

Following the program, committee reports were heard from Finance (May Belk Charity Sale participation), Membership (looking ahead to fall member recruitment), Educational Excellence (CGLA Tour, Books from Birth, HS Essay Contest), Planning (Chapter Success Plan), and Educational Services (\$100 drawing for member currently active in education—Mary Holland was the winner).

Alpha Phi Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2015

Friendship House, Hixson United Methodist Church, 10:00 a.m.

(continued)

There being no old or new business to act on, announcements were made:

- Alpha Phi's mini-grant program is featured in the current DKG NEWS.
- The chapter yearbook received a perfect score in the state evaluation.
- Susie Westbrook and Lin Marten have been accepted and will attend the Advanced Leadership Management Seminar.
- Reminders were given for state convention and Southeast Regional Conference registration and travel sharing.
- A partnership with CGLA to teach leadership skills may be in the offing.
- Members will be surveyed by email in the spring to give input into meeting times, locations and programs for 2015-2016.
- AN Order of the Rose nomination has been made, with nominee voted on by Executive Board.
- Sara Makemson and Susie Westbrook have volunteered to make the items for the chapter's donation to the state convention silent auction.

Happy Birthday to our Members

March

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



April

3rd: Karla Riddle
 13th: Sherry McCullough
 26th: Dr. Joy Hudson

Remembering Martha Becton



Martha Becton passed away on March 13th at the age of 87. She had been a member of Delta Kappa Gamma for over fifty years. Sponsored by Adele Baker, she became a member in 1963. She grew up in Murfreesboro and went to Middle Tennessee State University before coming to Chattanooga. While in Chattanooga, she received a master's degree in elementary education from what was then the University of Chattanooga. After teaching briefly in the Chattanooga City Schools starting at Alton Park Elementary, she chose to teach at dependent schools for Air Force families in Germany and Japan. Her friend, Adele Baker, helped her get an interview at Bright School in Chattanooga, where she began teaching fourth grade in 1963. When Bright School decided they needed a library, they tapped Ms. Becton to organize, set up and run it. This began her career as the Bright School librarian. She was trained by going to Emory University over the summers and earning a master's degree in librarianship. After Dr. Davis retired as head mistress in 1969 and before Sib Evans Sr. was hired in 1970, Ms. Becton served as the interim headmistress for a year. She was quoted as saying, "I preferred the library. I did not want to stay in that position." Martha stayed at Bright until 1978, and then went back to the Chattanooga City Schools and retired from Hixson Elementary in 1993. It should also be noted that Martha served on the board of the Chattanooga Area Schools Federal Credit Union (CASFCU) for 41 years!

Thank You To Alpha Phi

As many of you know, one of our members, Mary Starnes, recently lost her husband. She wrote to Alpha Phi a beautiful thank you note. Although the note was hand-written, it is transcribed below for you to read.



Dear Members of Alpha Phi,

My Paul's life focus was to serve others through his career in educational pursuits, through election to public office, and through membership in the Methodist Church and civic/service organizations. He greatly admired the educators in Delta Kappa Gamma and your accomplishments in many areas and on numerous levels.

Thank you for the cards, calls and visits to encourage us during Paul's numerous health issues, and for your support extended to me after his death. Please know how much I appreciate your willingness to assist us, your loyalty and your friendship.

Signed, Mary Starnes, March 2015