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# ALPHA PHI INFORMER

September, 2012

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## A Note From the President

School is beginning or has begun in the schools in our area. It is that time of year when “Back to School” clothes and “Back to School” supplies are on the minds of our parents. Our active teachers are back at it: in-service, lesson plans, lesson materials, etc. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all, and we compliment your enthusiasm and energy as you tackle the new school year.

In August, we had our first meeting. It was held at the Greenway Farms in Chattanooga, and was well attended. It was an organizational meeting to kick off efforts of the various committees. We also reiterated our goals:

- Retain and grow membership,
- Update chapter rules to reflect changes at Xi State and International,
- Increase communication across the chapter,
- Provide meaningful support for all of our active educators.

We talked about the New York City International conference, which was excellent, with good speakers, great fun in the local area, and great attendance. Way to go, Jeni!!

This year should prove to be an interesting year on Many fronts. The political systems continue to churn



*President Lin Marten presiding at the August meeting with Rachel Price, 1<sup>st</sup> VP.*

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out bills that are designed to “fix our educational systems,” when in fact they often work at cross-purposes. For example, there is a house bill in Georgia up for a vote that would allow the state to take local funds for education and set up any kind of charter school the state wants to set up. This, of course, would further damage local education funding and lessen the role of local school systems in determining what kinds of schools are appropriate for their geographic area. We must stay alert to such legislation and play a role wherever we can to help minimize further damage to our local systems and teachers.

President's  
Message  
Continued

I am in the lucky situation of traveling the country with my husband right now. I retired as a teacher on June 1<sup>st</sup> this year. We bought a travel trailer and hit the road for a couple of months. We are having a great time, as I write this letter to you from Amana, Iowa. The travel has given me an opportunity to view the difficulties teachers are having in states across the nation. It doesn't help to know we are not alone, but there should be power in numbers.

Let me close this letter by saying that we must first support our members and potential members who are involved in local education. We need to bring more educators into our chapter, while providing support for our current members in any way we can. Our chapter may not be able to change the world, but we can help provide a better world for the educators in our midst, and educate ourselves and those around us on the realities of decisions being made that can impact our future.



President's pin presented to Lin Marten by Susi Westbrook at the August meeting.

## NEXT MEETING

**Sept 15, 2012**

**10:00 AM**

**Tennessee Riverpark  
Pavilion #4**

### **Focus: Potential New Members**

Each member is asked to invite and bring at least one potential new member.

The topic of the September meeting is “Finding Balance in Our Professional and Business Lives. Speaker Jessica Jollie, a yoga master and motivational speaker, will lead members through some basic moves and talk about the benefits of yoga for both young and old. Please wear comfortable, loose clothing and bring a towel, small blanket or yoga mat, water, and snack /fruit for yourself and your guest. If you choose not to participate in the yoga session, you are welcome to observe.

### **Directions**

Entrances to the Tennessee Riverpark are located on Amnicola Highway at either side of the C.B. Robinson Bridge. Follow the road until you see the children's playground and the main pavilion with Brusters Ice Cream Shop and Nathan's Hotdogs. Pavilion #4 is near the children's playground on the Riverwalk. There is ample parking space around the playground. Plan to come early and take a walk on the Riverwalk before the meeting or stay afterwards and enjoy using the pavilion with family or friends until 2:00. Alpha Phi has the pavilion reserved from 10:00-2:00 .

# Alpha Phi Minutes

8/4/12

## Greenway Farms

- Purpose of the meeting was for committees to meet and to recruit members to be on various committees.
- Theme of the Year is TLC for Educator.
- Rachel Price opened with Dedication/Meditation with each member committing to stand beside/behind an educator or educators.
- President pin was presented to Lin Marten.
- Goal of the year is to increase membership.
- Xi State report was given by Rachel Price.
- International Convention report was given by Sharon McMahan.
- Treasurer's report was given by Laurie Richardson
  - ◆ -Budget was presented
  - ◆ -We have 48 active members
  - ◆ -Idea to increase grant in aid money from \$250 to \$500 was motioned by Susie Westbrook and seconded by Jensi Souders. Motion passed.
  - ◆ -Jensi motioned additional \$1/member for dues to go to Schools for Africa. Joy Hudson seconded the motion. Motion passed.
  - ◆ -Budget was approved
- Minutes from last meeting will be voted on in September (they were not available)
- Jensi moved to set up ad hoc committee on rules. Susie Westbrook seconded. Motion passed. Sharon McMahan will chair.
- Committees met and filled in potential members of committees.
  - Next meeting is on 9/15 and will be focused on Health and Wellness. Everyone asked to bring one person as a potential member.
  - Member profile needs to be filled out by all members
  - Nomination forms are available for membership. We will be voting in October for new members.



## News from the Big Apple

We had several of our members to attend the International Convention in New York City: Lin Marten, Barbara Northcut, Jessica Fulgham, Susie Westbrook, Sharon McMahan, and former member Renae Roberts. Renae is now a member in Columbia, TN. Counting Jensi, there were seven of us there. It was a great turn-out for our chapter. Members did the usual sight-seeing adventures—Sharon and DeeDee Rives stood in line for 1 ½ hrs to go to the top of the Empire State Building. Members also saw quite a few plays, baseball games, and of course the usual shopping! The “men’s auxiliary” was not left out of the activities. There were several tours planned specifically for them. While it was great fun, DKGers also conducted a lot of business. We voted to expand our membership into Japan; include early career educators as an International Project; increase the scholarship amount for members working on a doctorate to \$10,000; and to do further research and study of electronic voting. The Tennessee Reception for Jensi was an out-standing success. The setting at Rosie O’Grady’s was right across from the hotel and the food was absolutely divine. We sampled crab cakes with lobster sauce, sweet potato pancakes, medallions of filet mignon tips, chicken satay, fried shrimp, mini vegetables with spring rolls, assorted beverages and desserts. Tennessee has set the bar very high for future receptions. Of course the room was decorated with irises! During the convention we heard several interesting speakers, attended workshops, and made new friends. That is the unique character of DKG. You can register for a convention alone, but before it is finished you have made several friends who will be life-long companions in your heart!

*Sharon McMahan*