



ALPHA PHI INFORMER

MARCH 2012

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- April 30th
Founder's Day
- Educational Issues
- Thank You

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A Note From the President

President's Message

We had a terrific meeting on March 15th. Most of us were brought to tears by our speaker, Kathleen Collins, who adopted 4 boys from Ghana. Her story brought home to us the importance of our international project, Schools For Africa.

In happier news we initiated a new member Laura Belue. Laura is a young, early career teacher! She taught Sp Ed for two years and is finishing up her first year as a regular ed teacher. She is sponsored by Lin Marten. Now is the time to be thinking of new members for next year. Think about what you have seen from the teachers in your school this year. Is there anyone who has impressed you? If so, please send me their names and schools. Over the summer I will send them a DKG brochure and invite them to our fall meeting. An even better idea would be for **you** to invite them to the Founders' Day meeting sponsored by the Joint Council of the Chattanooga chapters.

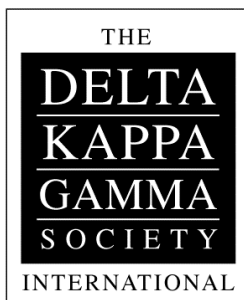
Founders' Day will be Saturday, April 28th, at 10:00 am at First-Centenary UMC. The cost of the luncheon will be \$15. Please note this is five dollars cheaper than last year's luncheon. We will not have a guest speaker this year in an effort to keep the meeting short. We will be recognizing someone in the community who is an outstanding supporter of education. Your check to Laurie is your reserva-

tion. Send your check to her by April 15th--TAX DAY! Easy to remember! Laurie's address is 3070 Stage Run, Hixson, TN 37343

We have installed our new officers. Lin Marten will be our chapter president; Rachel Price will be first vice president; Barbara Fulmer, second vice president; and Amy Swoope, secretary. This is a terrific slate of officers for the next biennium. Lin will have new ideas for the chapter. Both Lin and Rachel are on Xi State Committees, so they will keep us informed.

We still need to complete the slate for the Nominations Committee. Pat Veldman and Joy Hudson have agreed to serve. We need three more volunteers. If you would be willing to serve on that committee, please email me (mcmahan530@bellsouth.net). Over the summer many of you will be asked to serve on a chapter committee, please say yes. We are all busy! "Do nothings" are not invited to be in DKG! Please remember: *Someone noticed your work. Someone noted your standards. Someone believed in your potential. Someone sought your association. Someone sponsored your invitation. Someone honored you. Remember that person's confidence in you.* **When asked, please agree to help.**

See you on April 28th. Sharon

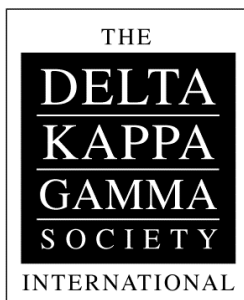


Our Educational System: It “ain’t” so bad after all!

Dr. Sara Heyburn was the guest speaker at our February meeting. She is an advisor with the Governor’s Office of State Planning and Policy. Sara stated that No Child Left Behind is no longer being used. Any policy changes are being developed based on educational research, implementation and observation in actual classrooms, and best practices. The data derived from these methodologies is used for proposed changes. The chapter members had questions about the short length of time for implementation of the new guidelines. Administrators and teachers are concerned about the lack of training and confusion about the new procedures. Concern was also voiced that parents are not up-to-date on the new guidelines and how they may affect their children. As an advisor on the panel, Sara will voice these concerns in the committee’s planning sessions.

Kathleen Collins was our guest speaker at our March meeting. Kathleen and her husband have adopted four children from an orphanage in Ghana. Three of the boys are brothers and the fourth boy is the best friend of the oldest brother. The orphanage in Ghana includes boys as well as girls. However, there is no formal education for these children. They exist on one meal a day—porridge. There is no running water, no toilet facilities, and no electricity. The formal education in the boys’ hometown is a school which costs fifty dollars a month. The classroom consists of a black chalk board, a teacher and very few books. This small school has no running water, no toilet facilities, and no electricity. There is very little hope that the children from the orphanage will ever be able to attend. The orphanage is totally dependent on donations. Ghana is NOT part of the **Schools For Africa** project. Before UNICEF will enter a country, the country must meet certain guidelines. Two of them, but not all, are to agree to educate girls as well as boys and to provide a safe, stable environment for the schools and children. The infrastructure in Ghana is so unstable that it could not meet the requirements and did not sign a contract with UNICEF. The situation in Ghana at the orphanage is not unusual in Africa. **Schools For Africa** is working to give these children HOPE.

As worried and stressed as many of us have been concerning changes in Tennessee’s program of education, the situation in Africa is a stark contrast to what we have. We are pretty lucky!



FOR KEY WOMEN
EDUCATORS

EDUCATIONAL ISSUES by Rachel Price

There is a great deal of legislative activity around educational issues this year even though the climate does not seem to be quite as volatile as last year. As always, it is imperative for educators to stay in close contact with their respective representatives to let them know how you feel about pending actions. It is a simple process to send an email to your Congressman or Representative; simply go to the Tennessee Government website, find your representative and click on the link to contact him or her.

Right now, the major discussions are centered on changing the position of assistant principal to that of "business manager". This initiative apparently started in west Tennessee when Memphis City Schools asked for funds to hire business managers to run their schools freeing the principals up to become more effective instructional leaders. One has to wonder if the next step is to hire administrative assistants for teachers to handle the mountains of paperwork that now supersede our ability to plan and deliver instruction. Neither one of these would appear to be necessarily evil in purpose or scope but with increasingly dwindling financial resources for instructional materials and equipment, oh and teachers' salaries, it begs the question of where is the money going to come from?

There are also ongoing discussions on the hill around the evaluation process and tenure. Current proposals are looking at allowing teachers who score a 3 for successive years to be considered for tenure where the original law requires that a teacher score a 4 or better. This appears more reasonable on the surface, but again begs the central question; if the evaluation process is flawed, shouldn't it in fact be fixed instead of merely bandaged?

I am not learned enough to attempt to present a full reporting of legislative activity, and at best this is merely an op-ed piece on conversations and news items I have encountered over the last few weeks. I do hope it encourages each of you to subscribe to some outlet that reports on political actions in your respective areas. I hope it encourages you to become fully engaged in politics and to come to the realization that "there are more of us than there are of them". We do not have to settle for having things done to us; as professionals we are obligated to make policy for our profession, not simply react. Along those lines, the one statement repeated over and over at the legislative symposium was a call to educators to fill political vacancies on both sides of the aisle! How about that for a true educational reform initiative?

Xi State and International Conventions

Xi State Convention

June 7-9, 2012

The University of the South,
Sewanee, Tennessee

Delta Kappa Gamma Society
International

International Convention

July 24-28, 2012

New York City, New York

For those going to the International Convention in NYC, please check the DKG website for information on cheaper tickets to plays.

Alpha Phi Member Information

- ~ **Ann Moore** is the proud grandmother of two new babies this year! She is also helping plan the wedding of her daughter. She is another busy lady.
- ~ **Jensi** will miss Founder's Day because she will be at one in Iceland.
- ~ **Katherine Benefield** is running for the District 1 seat on the Hamilton County Board of Education.

Thank You

Laurie Richardson is retiring as our chapter treasurer after 12 years of service. Her dedication to Alpha Phi has not gone unnoticed. **Susie Westbrook** will assume her duties.

Thanks to **Warisa, Cami, Sherry, Laurie, Barbara, Susie, and Jensi** for your support during my biennium. I could not have done it without everyone helping me.

Thanks to those who provided the inspirations, the hostesses and greeters for the meeting, and those who prepared programs, and to those who attended meetings.

A big thank you to all!! Sharon

Happy Birthday to our Members

March

Dianne Kelehear — 3rd
 Patsy Woodham — 3rd
 Sharon McMahan — 26th

April

Karla Riddle — 3rd
 Mary Ann Voss — 3rd
 Sherry McCullough — 13th
 Joy Hudson — 26th

May

Dr. Barbara Fulmer — 1st
 Pat Hartline — 6th
 Sarah Jones — 10th
 Kim Homaker — 14th
 Cheryl Haynes — 31st

June

Ann Moore — 1st
 Rita Downer — 8th
 Royce Delay Beene — 12th
 Barbara Northcut — 28th
 Joan Novotny — 29th

Alpha Phi Calendar

- ~ April 28th Founders Day: 10:00am at First-Centenary UMC, \$15
- ~ June 7 - 9, 2012: Xi State Convention, The University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee
- ~ July 24 - 28, 2012: Delta Kappa Gamma International Convention, New York



Find us on the web:

- www.alphahidkg.com
- www.dkg.org
- www.xistate.org
- Find Xi State on Facebook

Alpha Phi New Officers

Lin Marten — President
 Rachel Price — 1st Vice President
 Barbara Fulmer — 2nd Vice President
 Amy Swoope — Secretary