



# ALPHA PHI INFORMER

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EDITED BY  
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MCMAHAN

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## A Note From the President



“April showers bring May flowers.” This is the thing that always comes to my mind when I think of the month of April. But now, when I think of the month of April, I guess I think of preparations for the major state tests.

I know if you are an active teacher, this is what is on your mind as well. Also, of course, lesson plans, beautiful weather, spring hormones, full moons and an escape from the winter cold that has “blessed” us this year. Yeah! I can’t wait! I am amazed that as I write this, my windows are open and our fans are on. So it is coming faster than you think.

We had a great meeting in March, thanks to all the work that Susie did preparing us for Bunko! We also had great food, fellowship and lots of laughter! That was the best part of all. Our next meeting is Saturday, April 26th—Founders Day celebration at Brainerd United Methodist Church. The meeting will begin at 10:30 and include a wonderful lunch. The cost of this is \$17, payable to Susie Westbrook. You must send her a check in advance of the meeting—they are due by April 15th. That is the only way we can figure the number of people for the caterers. That is also your reservation. So please get your money in soon!

Wishing you a blessed spring and best wishes for testing season!

— *Lin*



## Website

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

## Member Updates

- ⇒ Congratulations to Alpha Phi member, **Laura Belue**, who was named the first ever Saddle Ridge Elementary and Middle School's Teacher of the Year! She says, "I am so honored, and I am proud to represent not only my school, but the special education department!"  
WAY TO GO, LAURA!!



- ⇒ Congratulations to Alpha Phi member **Amy Thompson**, one of 50 chosen from 160 applications to receive the Educational Foundation's \$1000 grants to celebrate the Foundation's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. Three Tennessee members won grants, and we're so please that Amy is one of the three! Amy will use the money to purchase videos to help her deaf and hard-of-hearing students and their parents communicate better.  
WAY TO GO, Amy!!!



- ⇒ One of our members, **Susie Westbrook**, has a niece, Emily Compton (seen here at right holding the emmy), who won a regional Emmy for her work at the local PBS station. Emily Compton and Peter DeLynn produced ***One With Courage*** and received the Emmy from the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, Midsouth Division.



- ⇒ **MaryJo Baughman** is a first time grandmother! Payton Elizabeth Weber was born March 31<sup>st</sup>.



## Brainstorming for Alpha Phi's Future

Are you willing to give one Sunday afternoon in May to help us plan for a successful chapter future? Every chapter member is invited to participate in envisioning how to gain new members, increase current member participation, and engender a sense of belonging to an organization that makes a difference in the world and in our community.

Jensi Souders is hosting a brainstorming session at her house on May 4 from 12:30-5:00, including a light lunch. We hope that you will plan to participate in brainstorming, goal setting while having fun and getting to know one another better.

Ponder these questions and come with ideas:

What chapter practices are important and must be kept?

What practices are no longer important and should be discarded?

What new practices should be incorporated?

How do we engender that "sense of belonging" in all members?

How can we better encourage, recognize and praise our members for achievements?

How can we involve all members in participating in one or more meetings a year?



No idea is too "out there" to be considered! Book club? Adopt-a-School? Bring on the ideas! We're open to whatever you can envision for a more successful Alpha Phi future.

If you are able to come, call or text Jensi at 423-503-0033 or email her at [jsouders3@comcast.net](mailto:jsouders3@comcast.net) no later than Wednesday, April 30. Put that Sunday on your calendar now and commit to brainstorming like crazy!! See you at Jensi's house on May 4.

**PUT MAY 4<sup>TH</sup> ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!**

## Come to the April Meeting!

Our next meeting will be Saturday, April 26th at Brainerd United Methodist Church. We will start at 10:30 and be finished by 12:30. This is our celebration of Founders' Day. This will be a joint meeting of the four chapters in the Chattanooga area. This is the time we celebrate the beginnings of our organization. We will also recognize someone we have chosen as a supporter of education in Chattanooga. Some of the past recipients have been David Carroll, Jayne Griffin, Andy Berke, and others. The cost of the luncheon is \$17. Your check to Susan Westbrook is your reservation. This year our chapter is responsible for the decorations and the printing of the program. We hope to decorate Friday afternoon before the Saturday luncheon. If you can help with the decorating please send Susie an email. [westbrookjs@aol.com](mailto:westbrookjs@aol.com) Address: 2320 Green Valley Road, Soddy Daisy 37379

Founders' Day is one of our largest meetings. The deadline for sending your check to Susie is April 15<sup>th</sup>. Remember: **Your check is your reservation.**

## Meeting Calendar

### **April 26th Founders' Day**

10:30—12:30 at Brainerd United Methodist Church

Hosted by Chattanooga Area Council

Brunch Catered: \$(TBA) per person

Money to Susie Westbrook by April 15th (this is your reservation!)

## OTHER CALENDAR ITEMS

**Planning for Alpha Phi Future:** May 4th at Jensi's house. See page 3 for more information.

**Xi State Convention:** June 5th—7th at Sewanee.

Registration for the convention can be found on the Xi State website, [www.xistate.org](http://www.xistate.org), or in the Xi State news.

**DKG International Conference:** July 28th—August 1st in Indianapolis. Registration and information can be found at [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org) or in the DKG newsletter. Our chapter will pay the registration fee for the in-coming president for both conventions.

**Chapter Officer Training:** Following are the dates for the spring chapter officer training.  
East TN: March 29 / Middle TN: April 12 / West TN: April 26

If you are a member of the new slate of officers and have not contacted Jensi to let her know which training you will be attending, please do so as soon as possible.

## NEW OFFICERS; NEW GOALS; NEW PLANS

Our officers for the next biennium are Jensi Souders, president; Sandy Smith, first vice president; Jeanette Underwood, second vice president; Danita Clark, secretary; Susie Westbrook, treasurer; and Patsy Woodham, chair of nominations committee. Jensi plans to have a meeting to brainstorm ideas for the coming biennium. Please read her article on page 3 in this newsletter.

## Convention Information

**Xi State is June 5—7 at the University of the South.** The registration is on line at [www.xistate.org](http://www.xistate.org) under Forms. This will be a very special convention for Alpha Phi. At the Ceremony of Remembrance on Saturday morning we recognize our DKG members who have passed away this year. We will honor the memory of our chapter member Melba Whittacre at that time. If you are unable to attend the convention, please consider attending the service at All Saints Chapel Saturday morning.

**The International Convention is Monday, July 28, through Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup> at Indianapolis.** During the convention we will vote on amendments to the Constitution and the Standing Rules. One of the proposed amendments is a choice between the delegate election we now use or go to a general election via electronic vote. Go to [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org) to find more information about a general election and the survey results taken this year. Convention registration is on line at [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org). The TN breakfast in Indianapolis will be held on July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 am at the convention hotel. Mail your \$30 for breakfast to Sherrie Collins, 112 Clinch View Drive, Corryton, TN 37721 or pay her at Xi State convention in June.

## Chapter Projects and Community Support

**Kids on the Block:** Don't forget our commitment to Chattanooga Kids on the Block (CKOB). Their mission is to educate children on social concerns and differences and give them skills to stay safe and healthy! Watch for emails from your officers inviting you to participate in a variety of fund-raising events. When you do participate, please let Lin Marten or Sharon McMahan know so that we can keep the chapter informed on how we can make a difference. We make a difference through our members like you!

**Ronald McDonald House:** We save pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House (RMH). RMH takes the pop tabs to the recycling company. The funds are then used to purchase needed necessities for the families that stay at the house. Bring your pop tabs to the Founders Day meeting in April. Give them to Sharon McMahan. She will deliver the pop tabs to RMH.

## Happy Birthday to our Members

### April

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

### May

1st: Barbara Fulmer  
6th: Pat Hartline  
14th: Kim Shomaker  
31st: Cheryl Haynes