



# ALPHA PHI INFORMER

AUGUST, 2014

EDITED BY  
LIN MARTEN AND SHARON

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## Jots from Jeni

Hurrah for a new biennium in Alpha Phi! We are building on great momentum that Lin Marten and the 2012 - 2014 leadership teams gave us. I am so excited about the plans your chapter leaders have made for this year and the biennium. I know you will be, also, when you hear all about the projects, day trips, programs and membership initiatives that are planned. We have three biennial goals:

1. To increase our membership by 20% or more;
2. To increase member participation and involvement;
3. To celebrate members' success.

### Great things in store for every member!

First of all, I appreciate those who came to our brainstorming session in May and those of you who responded with your votes for "best of the best" of the brainstorming ideas. Secondly, thanks to those of you who so enthusiastically and graciously agreed to serve on chapter committees, volunteering to do one or more of the committee responsibilities that are delineated in our chapter rules. Then, a big "thank you" to the officers, committee chairs and committee members who came to our June planning meeting. All officers were there and every committee but one had either the chair or committee members present. Awesome!!

As you read this month's "Informer" you will see many of the things in store for this year. Our goal is still to get every member participating in at least one meeting, program, or project for the year. We didn't quite have 100% last year, so that's our goal for this year.

### First meeting to be filled with Philanthropy, fellowship, and food!

Our first meeting is at my house in Ooltewah on Saturday, August 9th at 10:00. We will begin with an icebreaker/fellowship and brunch. Then we will initiate Raquel Clark Harris, whom we voted to invite last year but who was unable to attend the joint initiation in November. Raquel is not only one of our first mini-grant recipients, but also, along with our own Amy Thompson, a recipient of one of the 50 \$1,000 awards from the Educational Foundation to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. Be sure you are at the meeting to welcome Racquel to Alpha Phi!

## Jots from Jensi (cont.)

Following the initiation, we will have a short business meeting, and then all committees will meet to organize their activities for the year. We will also hold a "teacher shower" of classroom supplies. All active classroom teacher-members who attend will get to share the largess and, in addition, get their name in a drawing for \$100 for classroom supplies. Learn more about this at the meeting!

So, I challenge you for this year--

Get excited! Participate! Help Alpha Phi grow and serve!

## August Teacher Shower

At the Executive Board planning session, it was decided to support our active teachers by having a "teacher shower" at our August meeting. Active teachers who are present at the meeting will participate in a drawing for school supplies. Please support our active teachers by bringing to the meeting a donation of school supplies for the "teacher tote." The following are suggestions but all items are appreciated: expo markers, wide-rule spiral notebooks, wide-rule notebook paper, pencils, erasers, post-it notes, tag board, Kleenex, paper towels, Clorox wipes, foamy bathroom cleaner, staples, tape—all kinds, hand sanitizer, crayons, air freshener, Lysol, etc.

For each succeeding chapter meeting active teachers who are present will add their names to a drawing to be held in March. The more meetings an active teacher attends, the more her chances increase to win the March drawing.

## Attend the International Convention from the Comfort of Your Living Room



You will be able to watch live streaming of the opening session at the convention in Indianapolis. Check it out on the DKG web-site. It will be Monday, July 28, 2014, beginning at 7:15 p.m. Eastern Daylight Savings Time. The session will include the impressive flag procession; a welcome by the Mayor of Indianapolis; the beautiful singing of Reiko Sumi, a member from Japan; inspirational stories from the presidents of our oldest and youngest state organizations; and a keynote by Sarah Slad-ek, author, entrepreneur and generations expert.

## Member News

- ⇒ **Margaret Abernathy** is recovering from surgery that was performed on July 1.
- ⇒ **Pat Hartline** has been treated all summer for plantar fasciitis. She has been under-going extreme physical therapy.
- ⇒ Long time former member **Frances Wheeler** passed away in late spring.
- ⇒ **Kimberly Elbakidze** made it through the first cut of the Teacherpreneur Grant. She and other local teachers are completing grant proposals which will be judged Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. The teachers could win up to \$30,000 for their ideas. Keri Randolph is the contact at PEF for this project.
- ⇒ **Mary Holland** is a new mother-in-law to an "absolutely wonderful young woman."
- ⇒ **Jeanette Underwood** and her husband, Larry are traveling to Steamboat Springs, Colorado for a week in July. In August, they're off to Venice for a few days, then onto a cruise making stops at Ravenna, Italy; Dubrovnik, Croatia; Ephesus, Turkey; Athens, Greece; Mykonos, Greece; Naples, Florence, and Rome, Italy; Toulon, France; and then a few days in Barcelona.
- ⇒ **Lin Marten** and her husband are spending the summer in southern Colorado near Mesa Verde National Park
- ⇒ **Susie Westbrook** was presented the Order of the Rose by Xi State on Thursday night during the first general session of the state convention. The XI State program about her award said, in part:



"Since her 1978 initiation Susan Westbrook has faithfully served Alpha Phi, from scrap-book to telephone tree, from chairing committees to serving as chapter officer. She has been chapter president twice. She is always at meetings, currently serving as chapter treasurer. ... Susan never says no and for that reason she is Alpha Phi Chapter's rose."



Susie with Carolyn Pittman, International representative, at reception following presentation



Susie after presentation



Susie's cards auctioned at convention

## 2014-2016 Chapter Leadership Team is Set for Success!

### Finance Committee

**Judy Nixon, Chair**  
Laurie Richardson  
Amy Swoope  
Patsy Woodham

### Membership Committee

**Amy Thompson, Chair**  
Lena Engstrom  
Pat Hartline  
Mary Holland  
Lin Marten  
Cami Mitchell  
Barbara Northcut

### Nominations Committee (elected)

**Patsy Woodham, Chair**  
+4 other elected members to be chosen

### Educational Excellence Committee

**Sandy Smith, Chair**  
Marcia Christian  
Kathy Cox  
Barbara Fulmer  
Faye Hitchcock  
Joy Hudson  
Warisa Jarrett  
Jeanette Underwood  
Susie Westbrook  
Teresa Wilhoite

### Educational Services Committee

**Sara Makemson, Chair**  
Danita Clark  
Sherry McCullough  
Sharon McMahan  
Christina Neighbors  
Rachel Price  
Karla Riddle  
Joanne Smith  
Pat Veldman

### Planning Committee

**Amy Wright, Ann Moore, Co-Chairs**  
Mary Jo Baughman  
Laura Belue  
Kimberly Elbakidze

**Website Manager** Lin Marten  
**Newsletter Editor** Sharon McMahan and Lin Marten  
**Yearbook Editor** Jeanette Underwood

Website

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



## Put these Dates on Your Calendar-- Make Alpha Phi a priority this year!

### Chapter Meetings:

<b>August 9, 2014</b>	<b>10:00-12:00</b>	<b>Jensi Souders' home</b>
<b>Brunch</b>	\$5.00	
<b>Icebreaker/Fellowship:</b>	Ed. Ex. Com.	
<b>Agenda:</b>	Initiation, Paying of dues, Short business meeting, Committees meet	
<b>Project:</b>	Bring pop tops for Ronald McDonald House	
	Bring classroom supplies (Choose from list in this newsletter)	
<b>Take Home:</b>	Mini-grant brochures/applications to disseminate to early-career educators	
	Refrigerator magnet with meeting dates/times/locations	
	New member recommendation forms	
<b>September 6, 2014</b>	<b>10:00 - 11:30</b>	<b>HCEA Building on Shallowford Road</b>
<b>October 9, 2014</b>	<b>5:30 - 7:00</b>	<b>Chattanooga Downtown Public Library</b>
<b>November __, 2014</b>	<b>6:00 - 7:30</b>	<b>Joint Initiation Dinner</b>
<b>December 20, 2014</b>	<b>12:00 - 1:30</b>	<b>Holiday luncheon at Beyond the Garden Gate, Ooltewah</b>
<b>February 3, 2015</b>	<b>5:30 - 7:00</b>	<b>Public Library</b>
<b>March 7, 2015</b>	<b>10:00-11:30</b>	<b>Hixson UMC Friendship House</b>

### Day Trip Opportunities:

<b>August 16, 2014</b>	<b>9:00 - 3:30</b>	<b>Day trip to Psi State Leadership Institute in Macon, GA</b> See info in this newsletter. We can go together!
<b>September 19-20, 2014</b>		<b>Day Trip to Xi State Creative Arts Retreat in Dunlap.</b> Friday night and Saturday, or just Saturday. Application in this newsletter. August 15 deadline. We'll drive over together!
<b>November 1, 2014</b>	<b>12:00-3:00</b>	<b>Picnic with Chattanooga Chapters and Dunlap's Beta Zeta at the Pumpkin Patch on Signal Mountain. We'll carpool!!</b>

### Conventions:

#### Xi State Convention:

**June 4-6, 2015**                      **University of the South, Sewanee, TN**

# Alpha Phi Projects--Get Involved!

## Continuing Projects (and committee/office responsible):

### Mini-grant for Early-Career Educators (Educational Excellence Committee)

**August and September meetings.** Up to \$800, depending on number of applicants and selected recipients. For 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> year non-member educators for a classroom/school project. Alpha Phi members distribute the brochures/applications and deadline is November. Recipient(s) receive award at December luncheon and report back on their project in March.

### Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House (Educational Services Committee)

**Every meeting.** Bring your collection to each meeting or save and bring when you get a full zip-top bag filled.

### Christmas Wrapping for Kids on the Block (Officers)

**October and November meetings.** Date(s) for wrapping to be determined

## New projects (and committee responsible):

### Teacher Shower of Classroom supplies (Educational Services Committee)

**August meeting.** For classroom teachers in Alpha Phi who attend the meeting.

**August meeting.** \$100 drawing for classroom supplies. Classroom teacher-members present at meeting will be in a drawing to win.

**March meeting.** \$100 drawing for classroom supplies. Classroom teacher-members will get their names put in for each meeting they attend during the year. A name will be drawn at the March meeting for the recipient of the money.

### Box Tops for Education (Educational Services Committee)

**Every meeting.** Save the pink "box tops for education" coupon on products you use all the time. There will be a box at every meeting to deposit the collected tops. At the March meeting, all members present whose schools participate in the project will have a drawing to see who gets the box tops.

### Belk Charity Sale (Finance Committee)

**September and February meetings.** We will register our chapter mini-grant project with Belk and sell \$5 tickets to their twice-a-year charity sales that occur in May and November. We keep all the proceeds from the ticket sales and apply them to our mini-grant award.

### High School Essay Contest (Educational Excellence Committee)

**October meeting.** Though we have not participated in this Xi State project in many years, we will attempt to promote it through high school English teachers. We may submit up to four essays to the state essay contest committee. Winners at the state level receive cash awards.

### Books from Birth (Educational Excellence Committee)

**February meeting.** Another state project in which we have participated but not recently. We will decide whether we wish to make a donation for the mailing of books and/or help sign up children for the book program.

### Room at the Inn (Educational Services Committee)

**December meeting.** We will bring gently used professional clothing to the meeting, to be donated to the Room in the Inn women's shelter, so that women who have left home with nothing but the clothing on their backs will have a nice outfit to go for job

## Focus on Membership

**August:** We will initiate a new member, Raquel Clark Harris. Raquel was unable to be at the joint initiation in November, so we are pleased to initiate her in August. The membership committee will have Nomination forms available, so be thinking about those who “have given or have the potential to give distinctive service to education.”

**September: “Bring a colleague to DKG”** is the theme for the meeting. Bring one or more potential members with you to the meeting. We will have short talks by several members about who we are and what we do. Nomination forms will be available.

**September/October:** Nomination of potential members to be invited to orientation meeting on October 26 (Sunday afternoon). Voting on nominees will take place by mail/email in late September or early October, depending on how well each of you does on nominations!

**October:** Informational meeting for potential members.

**November:** Joint initiation of new members with other three Chattanooga Chapters.

**December-March:** Nomination of and voting on anyone you forgot to nominate in the fall! We can initiate more than once a year, after all!

## Be “reminded”!

As of July 15, 22 chapter members have signed up for “Remind,” the app designed for teachers, students and parents to be notified/”reminded” about homework and other school-related events. Jensi plans to use it to send quick reminders to members as an additional means of communication. Messages cannot be over 140 characters (like a tweet) and so are short and to the point. You cannot respond to the reminder, but can call or email Jensi if you have a question about one.

You can sign up to have your reminders sent via email and/or text to your smartphone. Members without either will be called about the reminders that are sent.

If you are not one of the 22 who are already signed up, check your email for a link that Jensi sent (a second time!) on July 14 to help you to sign up. **Be in the know while you’re on the go!!**

# Alpha Phi Mini-Grant Application

One of the ways we support of Early Career educators in Alpha Phi is to offer them mini-grants. These grants provide up to \$800, depending on number of applicants and selected recipients. These grants are for 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> year non-member educators for a classroom/school project. We need your help! We need Alpha Phi members to distribute the brochures/ applications at your schools or at schools that are near you. The deadline is November 15<sup>th</sup>. Recipient(s) will receive their award at our December luncheon and report back on their project in March. We are encouraging our mini-grant recipients to become members of Alpha Phi as well, and that is beginning to happen! Sharon McMahan will be distributing the brochures at our meetings. Or you can contact Sharon directly to get copies. Or you can have the potential recipient provide the information requested below.



What you need to know ••••

**Eligible applicants:** Educators in their first three years of classroom instruction.

**Application deadline:** November 15 of each calendar year, with notification of status by December 1 of each year.

**Award amount:** Up to \$250

What we need to know ••••

**Name of applicant:**

**School:**

**School System:**

**Subject/Grade Level:**

**# Years' Experience**

**Phone #:**

**Email Address:**

**Description of project:** Explain how the teacher will use grant funds to enhance classroom instruction or strengthen your professional knowledge.

**Proposed Budget:** Include a list of proposed expenditures, giving a total of amount requested.

Now what? ••••

Mail this information to Sharon McMahan, 979 East Valley Drive, Rossville, GA 30741, or scan it and send as an attachment to [mcmahan530@bellsouth.net](mailto:mcmahan530@bellsouth.net). Recipients will be recognized at a spring meeting, where they will be asked to give a brief talk about the outcomes resulting from the grant award. At that meeting, receipts/documentation of grant expenditures must be submitted.

## Alpha Phi Goes GOLD for 2013

Congratulations to all of us for receiving the 2014 Gold **Maycie Award**, the highest award of distinction that Xi State Organization gives to chapters for all-around excellence.

Chapters submit to be rated on attendance, participation in state projects and meetings, programs, communications (yearbook, newsletter, website), membership growth, and strategic planning. Awards are honorable mention, bronze, silver, and gold — the highest.

In addition to the Maycie Award, we received the following awards:

- Highest honors for the 2013-2014 chapter yearbook
- Certificate of recognition for positive chapter growth
- Highest honors for communications and publicity
- Certificate of completion for our chapter strategic action plan
- Participation award for contributing to the Silent Auction to benefit leadership training

That's certainly setting the bar high, and we are determined to keep going for the GOLD this biennium!

## Xi State President Asks For Your Input

At the International Convention, we will be voting on whether to change to electronic voting. Please go to the DKG web-site ([www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)) to read about the issues. Then email Beverly Smith. She has requested our input so that she may vote as we would wish. [bevsmith88@hotmail.com](mailto:bevsmith88@hotmail.com)

## Happy Birthday to our Members

### July

27th: Sara Makemson

### August

16th: Sandy Smith  
19th: Pat Veldman  
23rd: Marcia Christian



# Important Things to Remember

## FALL ARTS RETREAT

The deadline for registration for the fall arts retreat is August 16. The retreat is September 19-20 in Dunlap, Tennessee. The entire retreat is \$35; Saturday only is \$25. The registration form will be distributed at the August 9<sup>th</sup> chapter meeting.

## PSI State (Georgia) Leadership Institute

The guest speaker at the Psi Leadership Institute in Macon will be Dr. Lace Marie Brogden, Ph.D. Dr. Brogden will speak about setting personal and collective goals, and challenge us to imagine possibilities for leadership within and beyond the Society.

The Institute will be August 16<sup>th</sup>.

Location: Forest Hill United Methodist Church, 1217 Forest Hill Road, Macon, GA 31210

Time:

9:00 am Registration

9:30 am—3:30 pm Program

Registration: \$20.00 (includes catered lunch)

Registration Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Email address for confirmation \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Judy Farrigan, Psi State Organization Treasurer, 326 South Oak Street, Jackson, GA 30233. Your check is your reservation.

# Executive Board Planning Session Minutes June 24<sup>th</sup>

The Executive Board of Alpha Phi met in a planning session on June 24<sup>th</sup> at the home of Jeni Souders. Jeni introduced the members of the Executive Board, committee chairs or their representatives. All officers were present except for past chapter president Lin Marten, who was out of town. Susie Westbrook gave the treasurer's report. Susie reported that the Finance Committee had met and the proposed budget will be presented to the chapter at the August meeting.

Sharon McMahan reported on the Xi State Convention. Highlights of the convention were the awarding of the Order of the Rose and the recognition of Alpha Phi as a gold chapter. Our own Susie Westbrook received the Order of the Rose.

Jeni reported on the chapter success plan. We have failed to meet one of the chapter goals. Our goal was for every member of the chapter to attend at least one meeting last year. We will continue to work on this goal. Committee chairs and their members were assigned. Jeni reported that everyone asked to serve had responded positively and enthusiastically. We need to vote on a slate for the Nominations Committee. Patsy Woodham is the chair of that committee.

The Executive Board discussed the results of the brainstorming session. New chapter projects were added: Box Tops for Education, Dress for Success, teacher shower, etc. We plan to offer extra opportunities for group field trips and other activities. The Executive Board made preliminary plans for the chapter calendar. Meeting dates and locations will be completed by the first chapter meeting on August 9<sup>th</sup>.



— *Danita Clark, secretary*

