



ALPHA PHI INFORMER

MAY, 2014

EDITED BY
LIN MARTEN AND SHARON
MCMAHAN

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A Note From the President



Summer is the warmest of our four seasons, with the days getting longer and longer right up to the solstice. It is a great time to work on your body, go to the beach, check out foreign cultures and get the rest that you have undoubtedly lost during the school year. For me, summer is often a time of travel, and so my husband and I will head out west again for an extended stay in southern Colorado.

This is my last "President's Letter." I have greatly enjoyed my biennium and I have learned a lot! I wish I had been more knowledgeable of DKG and all of its customs and expectations at the beginning of the biennium – I would have been able to serve you much better. But learning and growing is what life is all about. And I thank you for being patient with me. Plus, I leave you in good hands with a president who has had lots of DKG experience! I have great respect for Jeni and I am so glad that she accepted the position for this biennium.

I will continue to assist Sharon McMahan with the newsletter and update the website. I will continue to let you know when the website has been significantly updated for a new month, so you can check out the latest news in our chapter. I will continue to love DKG and all of my "sisters," who I have come to know even better over the past couple of years! Have a wonderful summer and keep me or Sharon posted on your travels and your trials and your celebrations. We have certainly learned how much our members appreciate being kept up to date on each other.

Above all – have fun!

Lin

Website

www.alphaphidkg.com



Member Updates

⇒ **Kimberly Elbakidze**, one of 27 teachers, has been chosen to attend the STEM Leadership Fellows Conference for Southeastern Tennessee. Kim's computer classes earned \$750 for their classroom by completing a series of lessons used for the National Hour of Code program. To earn bonus money of \$250, 7 girls needed to complete the course. They surpassed the goal! The class has chosen to spend the \$1000 on robotics for the classroom. Congratulations to Kim as a STEM Fellow and also to her computer class.



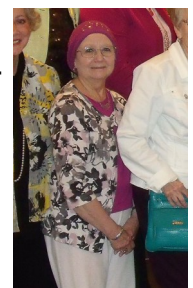
⇒ **Lin Marten** will be traveling out west with her husband Vern for four months. They will be work-camping at a campground near Mesa Verde National Park.

⇒ Jim and **Jensi Souders**, **Sharon McMahan**, and Elaine Warwick will have a two week driving trip through Italy in October. Elaine is also a member of DKG.

⇒ **LinMarten** believes that our chapter has accrued enough points this year to receive the Gold Chapter Excellence Award at Xi State.

⇒ **Teresa Wilhoite** and her sister are caring for their father who has dementia. Because of her schedule Teresa is limited in ability to attend chapter meetings. We wish her the best and understand.

⇒ **Karla Riddle** was able to attend the Founders' Day meeting and looked great! Karla had on a really cute crochet hat which can be seen in the group picture made at Founders' Day.



⇒ **Warisa Jarrett** will travel to Asia and spend time visiting schools in different countries; Singapore- to learn more about Singapore Math; Laos, Cambodia & possibly Vietnam (if weather permits); Hong Kong; China (Shenzhen & Xishuangbanna)..to learn more about multicultural groups and its cultures. She wants to gather information about her students' cultures.



More Member News

⇒ Congratulations to **Raquel Clark**, our mini grant recipient, who was married on April 12th!! She is not currently a member of DKG, but we hope to initiate her into Alpha Phi this fall. She has received an award from the Educational Foundation and plans to attend the Awards Luncheon with her husband to accept the award.. Wow! Lots of congratulations, Raquel!



⇒ **Sara Makemson's** son Jim will be married on August 30th to Ashley Chapman.

⇒ **Amy Wright**, husband Tracy, and baby Georgia Lou will be attending the Marine Corps graduation of their nephew at Parris Island. He is going to be a musician in the Marine Band. Then they will go to North Carolina to see their niece play the lead role in her school musical of "The Little Mermaid." After that, they will spend three weeks in Ashland, Oregon, where Tracy works each summer with the music graduate program. Travel and music, a great way to spend the summer!



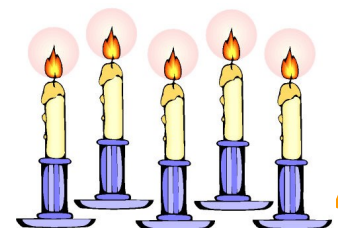
⇒ **Maryjo Baughman** will leave on May 23rd for travel with three friends to visit Europe. They will stay in Eichstatt and visit Munich, Salsburg, and parts of Austria and Switzerland. This is Maryjo's first trip to Europe and she is "sooo excited!"

⇒ **Jensi Souders** attended, upon invitation, the business-in-education partnership program (Partnership 2000) in Catoosa County on May 8th. Jensi was the first partnership coordinator for the program from 1989-1997. The current superintendent had Jensi as a teacher, role model, and mentor and recognized Jensi for her influence on her career as an administrator. You never know the influence you may have on a student!

⇒ **Amy Wright** also attended the Partnership 2000 luncheon. Amy's description is more detailed: Superintendent Reese gave Jensi credit for helping students to "see beyond their driveway." As a high school student in a family where no one had ever gone to college, Jensi was the teacher who gave her the confidence to step onto the UTC campus. Reese said she didn't know what she wanted to do; all she knew was that she wanted to be like Mrs. Souders. Thanks, Amy, for excellent reporting!

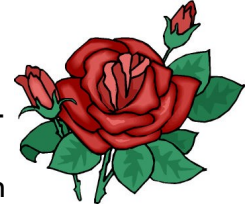
A Special Remembrance

During the Xi State convention, we will have the Ceremony of Remembrance for all Xi State members who have passed away since last June. The ceremony will be held in The All Saints Chapel at the University of the South in Sewanee. The ceremony will be Saturday morning June 7th at 8 am Central time. Melba Whittacre will be recognized during this ceremony. If you can not attend any



Order of the Rose

At each Xi State Convention, a limited number of recipients are granted the Order of the Rose. Not all nominees are accepted. Candidates must have contributed considerable service to their chapters over the years but not have been recognized on the state level. Alpha Phi nominated **Susie Westbrook** and she was approved by Xi State to be a recipient of the Order of the Rose on Thursday night during the first general session of the state convention. Since her 1978 initiation Susie has faithfully served our chapter, from scrapbook to telephone tree, from chairing committees to serving as a chapter officer. She has been chapter president twice. She is always at meetings and currently serves as chapter treasurer. For several years Susan



was at the orientation for new teachers in Hamilton County, introducing them to DKG with Society brochures and her own home-made cookies. She loves to do special things for the chapter. She has created beautiful programs and decorations for Founders' Day and Initiation. She makes name tags for chapter meetings and hand-made cards for the Xi State auction. Susan is a woman of quiet strength. She is one of those rare people who can quietly work in a group, but when called upon, she is a leader. Susan never says no and for that reason she is our chapter rose.

Founders Day

Founders' Day was a lovely success. Susie's decorations and programs were appreciated by all and incorporated the Xi State president's C O R E theme: **C**ultivating **O**ur **R**enewed **E**xcitement. We had 16 chapter members to attend and all went home with a souvenir apple! A special thank you goes to Julie Hughes of Alpha Xi chapter. Julie's choir from Wolftever Creek Elementary was highly entertaining. Even Elvis was there! Can you see him in the front?



Our Service to Education Award was presented to June Scobie Rogers! She gave an excellent talk! In this picture, left to right: June Scobie Rogers, Jan Nelms, Chattanooga Coordinating Council Chairman.



MAY, 2014

Founders Day Group Picture

Left to Right Back Row: Susie Westbrook, Barbara Northcut, Lin Marten, Sherry McCullough, Ann Moore, Kristina Neighbors, Cami Mitchell, Laurie Richardson.

Left to Right Front Row: Lena Engstrom, Karla Riddle, Pat Velman, Kim Shomaker, Danita Clark, Marcia Christian, Judy Nixon, Sharon McMahan.



NEW OFFICERS; NEW GOALS; NEW PLANS

Our new officers for the next biennium were installed in the March meeting. In this picture, left to right: Sandy Smith, first vice president; Jensi Souders, president; Danita Clark, secretary.



Brainstorming Ideas

A group of interested chapter members met at Jensi's house on May 4th to discuss our goals and plans for the next biennium. Look at the sticky notes full of ideas. But we need your help! By now you should have read and responded to Jensi's email sent to all members. Please read and respond with your comments and suggestions. How can we improve, if no one ever tells us anything???? Please give us your thoughts.



Convention Information

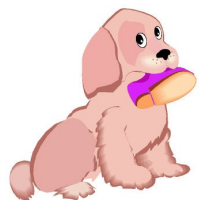
Xi State is June 5—7 at the University of the South. The registration is on line at www.xistate.org under Forms. This will be a very special convention for Alpha Phi. At the Ceremony of Remembrance on Saturday morning we recognize our DKG members who have passed away this year. We will honor the memory 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 1st 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 to find more information about a general election and the survey results taken this year. Convention registration is on line at www.dkg.org. The TN breakfast in Indianapolis will be held on July 30th at 6:45 am at the convention hotel. Mail your \$30 for breakfast to Sherrie Collins, 112 Clinch View Drive, Coryton, TN 37721 or pay her at Xi State convention in June.

Attention Pet Lovers

Dogs Welcome!

A man wrote a letter to a small hotel in a Midwest town he planned to visit on vacation. He wrote, "I would very much like to bring my dog with me. He is well-groomed and very well-behaved. Would you be willing to permit me to keep him in my room with me at night?"



An immediate reply came from the hotel owner, who wrote, "Sir! I've been operating this hotel for many years. In all that time I've never had a dog steal towels, bedclothes, silverware or pictures off the walls. I've never had to evict a dog in the middle of the night for being drunk and disorderly. And I've never had a dog run out on a hotel bill. Yes, indeed, your dog is welcome at my hotel and, if your dog will vouch for you, you're welcome to stay here too."

Happy Birthday to our Members

May

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

June

1st: Ann Moore
1st: Dr. Ava Warren
28th: Barbara Northcut