



ALPHA PHI INFORMER

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EDITED BY
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Jots from Jeni

What a terrific way to begin our Alpha Phi year and a new biennium! We had 50% of chapter members present at our August meeting, including our newest member, Raquel Harris (who's expecting her first child September 10!), initiated at the meeting! That makes us halfway to our goal of having every member participating in one or more chapter events this year!

Thanks to all of you who participated in our "teacher shower" for members. **Amy Thompson** won the \$100 for additional teacher supplies. Remember, active-teacher members, every meeting/event attended this year gives you an additional chance for the \$100 to be awarded at our March meeting.

Congratulations to **Kimberly Elbakidze** for being one of the winners in the Public Education Foundation's "Teacherpreneur" competition for her project, "From Ordinary to Bomb Diggity." She and 13 others will share in the \$100,000 prize money. Great job, Kimberly!

Thanks to Second Vice President **Jeanette Underwood** who is just about finished with our chapter yearbook. I believe you are going to be pleased with this edition.

We have many reasons to be at the September 6 meeting-- "**Bring a Colleague to DKG.**" Come and bring a guest (active or retired educator) whom you would recommend for membership. We'll have food, an ice breaker activity (Planning Committee in charge), fellowship, and a short presentation by the Membership Committee of who we are and what we do in DKG, and of the benefits and opportunities of membership.

We have sent letters of invitation to six colleagues, but, if you didn't turn in a name and contact information, don't let that stop you from bringing one or more with you to the meeting.

The Finance Committee will help us get our fundraiser for our mini-grant off the ground with the **Belk Charity Sales Event**. And don't forget to be collecting your **pop tabs** and **Box Tops for Education!**

See you September 6, 10:00-11:30, at the HCEA Building at 4655 Shallowford Road. **Let's stay on an attendance roll!**

Souders Receives 2014 Achievement Award

The following was posted on the DKG International website following the International Convention. **Congratulations to our President!!!!**

By Beverly Helms, Ed.D, International President 2012-2014

Each year The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International recognizes one member for distinguished service to the Society. From recommendations submitted by members, chapters or state organizations, the international Executive Board selects a member for this honor.



The symbol of this honor is a gold medallion presented to the recipient. The first medallion for the International Achievement Award was given in 1933 to Dr. Annie Webb Blanton.

Dr. Jeni P. Souders, 2010-2012 International President; chair of the 2012-2014 Transition Training Team and the DKG Supporting Corporation Board of Directors; member of the Educational Foundation Board of Trustees and the Administrative Board's Performance Appraisal Team is the 82nd recipient of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Achievement Award. The award was presented at the 2014 International Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Souders, a member of Alpha Phi Chapter in Tennessee, was initiated in 1975 and is a graduate of the 1988 Golden Gift Leadership Management Seminar. She received an international scholarship in 1994, has held numerous leadership positions at the chapter and state organization levels serving as Tennessee state organization president (1995-97), editor (1995-2004), executive secretary (2004-2008), and she received her state organization's Achievement Award in 1998.

On the international level, Souders has served as Member-at-Large (2000-2004), Southeast Regional Director (2006-2008), International First Vice President (2008-2010), and International President (2010-2012). She has also chaired the Research, Communications and Lucile Cornet Bequest Committee as well as several sub-committees of the Administrative Board and the Educational Foundation. She has also served as Society representative to 45 state organizations.

Souders is recognized as a talented musician, outstanding workshop presenter and exemplary leader. Her award nomination states, "Dr. Jeni Souders is a visionary, mentor and driving force in DKG. This reflective, courageous and open-minded woman has exhibited outstanding leadership skills in five consecutive international positions culminating as 2010-2012 international president. With her vast knowledge of DKG, Jeni becomes a collaborative resource who encourages including younger members and maintaining mature members. She motivates others to take leadership positions and reach their potential. Jeni Souders not only exemplifies DKG leadership, she builds it."

As international president, Souders was instrumental in the adoption of the second DKG international project, *Support of Early Career Educators (SEE)*. She joins other remarkable women educators as a recipient of the highest award presented to a member of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

Member News

- ⇒ We are so excited to welcome **Raquel Harris** to Alpha Phi and to DKG International! Our new member is expecting her first child on September 10th. His name will be Bryson Lee Harris.



- ⇒ **Mary Holland** is the new math coach for Wolftever Creek Elementary and East Brainerd Elementary/Intermediate.



- ⇒ **Lena Engstrom** now has six great-grandchildren!

- ⇒ Jim, **Sara Makemson's** son, is getting married on August 30, 2014.

- ⇒ **Ann Moore** is the proud grandmother of two granddaughters born July 6th and July 8th.

- ⇒ **Pat Veldman** took CPR-AED class this summer.



- ⇒ **Barbara Northcut** earned a trip through Cookie Lee Jewelry for a week at the Atlantis Resort in the Bahamas.

- ⇒ **Joanne Smith** is having epidurals to help relieve pain from herniated disks in her back. The back pain began in March and escalated.

Report on the Constitutional Amendments and Standing Rules

So that we can all stay informed about our organization, news from the International Convention must include the approved changes to the DKG Constitution and Standing Rules. Some of these are quite interesting. Check it out!

- * There was a proposed amendment that a World Fellowship fee of \$1 be paid by each member to fund a WF scholarship. This amendment was postponed indefinitely.
- * There was much discussion about a proposed amendment that a new state organization shall have no fewer than 60 members. The Administrative Board felt that 60 members would be substantial enough to guarantee stability and growth during the first five years. There was discussion that 60 members initially to organize a new state would be difficult to achieve considering some of the far distances members would have to travel. A compromise of 40 members was proposed and passed.
- * A motion to elect the president and vice presidents at international convention by members present was defeated.
- * A motion passed for each state hosting an international convention to receive funds from International to offset expenses accrued by the host for state night. Also a motion was passed that registration fees for convention may include reduced fees for assigned host state organization members.
- * A motion passed to publish the DKG *Bulletin* online only and to print a collegial magazine two times a year. The collegial magazine will focus on practical teaching tips, program ideas, and useful information for members.
- * A motion to have the option of a delegate election or a general election failed. Members were concerned about the cost of an electronic election, upwards of \$20,000, and research had shown only 12% voted.
- * A motion to give regions the option to hold a conference in odd-numbered years did not pass.

The Constitutional Convention followed *Roberts Rules of Order*. For closely contested motions members were asked to stand to be counted. Members could go to the microphone to ask questions, speak for a motion, or against one. A time limit was set for those speaking. It was truly democracy the way it should operate!

Next Meeting

September 6, 2014 10:00-11:30 Hamilton County Board of Education Building

We have many reasons to be at the September 6 meeting-- **“Bring a Colleague to DKG.”** Come and bring a guest (active or retired educator) whom you would recommend for membership. We'll have food, an ice breaker activity (Planning Committee in charge), fellowship, and a short presentation by the Membership Committee of who we are and what we do in DKG, and of the benefits and opportunities of membership. All chapter members are asked to invite a prospective member to the meeting. She may be an active or a retired educator.

More Opportunities for Fun, Fellowship and Professional Growth

- September 19th-20th Creative Arts Retreat, Dunlap
- October 21st, 5:30 pm H-Art Gallery, *Gallery Mission & Tour*
- November 1st, noon—3:00, Tennessee River Park, Pavilion #4, picnic for area chapters and their families. Bring your own food.
- November TBA Joint Council Initiation
- December 20th, noon Beyond the Garden Gate, *Christmas Luncheon*
- February 3rd-4th, Nashville, Legislative Symposium
- February 3rd, 5:30 pm, *What's New at the Public Library?*
- March 7th, 10:00 am Hixson UMC, Friendship House, *Mini-grant Project Presentations*
- April TBA 11:30 am *Founders' Day Luncheon*

Conventions:

Xi State Convention:

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

Last Meeting

Alpha Phi Chapter Meeting, August 9, 2014



The August chapter meeting was held at Jeni Souders' house. We had a wonderful brunch, and time to pay dues and fellowship before our official meeting began.

*Left to right: Warissa Jarrett, Danita Clark, Pat Veldman, Mary Holland, Karla Riddle, Sara Makemson, Amy Wright. Cami Mitchell, Christina Neighbors,
With back to camera: Judy Nixon, Ann Moore*

Our first order of business was to initiate our newest member, Raquel Clark Harris, a math teacher at CSAS. The ceremony was led by and participated in by members of our chapter. Then we began the business portion of our meeting.



Judy Nixon presented the proposed budget for our new year. She asked for suggestions to help boost our reserve. There was some discussion about participating in the Belk Charity Sales, which received positive response.

*Left to right: Marcia Christian, Judy Nixon, Lena Engstrom, Susie Westbrook, Danita Clark, Warissa Jarrett, Mary Holland, Pat Veldman, Sara Makemson, Karla Riddle, Cami Mitchell, Amy Wright.
With back to camera: Pat Hartline, Christina Neighbors.*

Last Meeting Minutes (continued)

Amy Thompson spoke about membership and gave out cards to write down contact information for potential new members. Educational Excellence committee handed out magnets with this year's future meeting dates printed for easy reference. Sandy briefly described the tentative plans for future meetings.



Educational Services planned and presented all active teachers with a "New Teacher Shower", where members brought in school supplies to be divided up amongst members. Sharon spoke briefly about the mini-grant applications which are now being accepted, and Jeni explained the ongoing pop-top and Box Top for Education collections.

Left to right: Jeni Souders, Mary Holland, Cami Mitchell, Amy Thompson

Announcements were made concerning our next meeting, the Creative Arts Retreat (Sept. 19-20), and member celebrations.

The meeting was closed with a group recommitment and choral reading, then individual committees met to discuss whatever was pertinent.



*Danita Clark,
Secretary*

Breaking News-- November Initiation

The date for the joint initiation is under negotiations. Alpha Xi is in charge of entertainment and has asked Jennifer Arbogast to perform. Arbogast is an award-winning singer in musical theatre. She is an instructor at Chattanooga State in the professional actors' theatre program. She is classically trained, but her heart is with musical theatre. Recently, Jennifer Arbogast played Anna in "The King and I" at the Signal Mountain Playhouse this summer. She had rave reviews. Dr. Arbogast is well-known in the community and many will want to hear her sing. Be on the lookout for date and place so you can mark your calendar!!

In Sympathy

Our love and sympathy to Marge Ogle who lost her sister in July. Marge is a founding member of Alpha Phi and our very first chapter president. We are so sorry for her loss.

Chapter Activities

We continue to save pop tabs for the Ronald MacDonald House. These pop tabs help to pay for cancer treatments for children. We are also saving **Box Tops for Education** on certain grocery products. These labels will be shared among our participating teachers to earn free stuff for their classrooms. Last month our active teachers shared in freebies for the classroom donated by chapter members. The winner of the drawing for \$100 for an active teacher was Amy Thompson. Congratulations to Amy, who is a Special Ed Teacher.

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!!**

Happy Birthday to our Members

August

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

September

13th: Amy Swoope
 16th: Chris Monroe



Website

www.alphahidkg.com

