

ALPHA XI NEWS

DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL XI STATE

THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL PROMOTES PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL
GROWTH OF WOMEN EDUCATORS AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION.



Volume 16 Issue 6

March 2019

Alpha Xi Members Inspired by students of Project Inspire



Alpha Xi Members and guests gathered at the Chop House on Gunbarrel Road in Chattanooga on February 7th. Members enjoyed a delicious meal and warm fellowship as we learned about an innovative teacher preparation program.

Lauren Bensman of Project Inspire spoke to the members about the teacher residency program that is based on the medical residency program.

Two of the students in the program spoke about their personal experiences and how they felt that the program set them up for success and were better prepared than the typical first year teacher. They attributed this to the close working relationship with the mentor teacher. Understanding how to achieve a work-life balance with all of the pressures and responsibilities of teaching has been invaluable. The students related their surprise at the impact of a teacher's words on students and by the natural curiosity and ability of young students to think abstractly.



The February service project was a "survival" kit for new teachers graduating from Project Inspire. Bags included small gifts including gum, mints, and the indispensable stress ball!



NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, March 12, 2019



PLACE: Woodmore Elementary
800 Woodmore Lane
Chattanooga, TN 37411

TIME: 5:00 p.m.

Chick-Fil-A sandwich \$3
Chips, Water, Trail Mix bar provided
RSVP: Jeanie by Sunday March 10th

PROGRAM: Amari Alexander will share STEM activities

HOSTESSES: Planning Committee

NOTE: You may pay Norma Cate at the March meeting for the Founders' Day meal.

President's Message

At the Legislative Symposium in Nashville last week, the moderator of the panel discussion reminded us of Tennessee's unique role in women's history. A young legislator from Tennessee cast the deciding vote to make our state the 36th to ratify the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, thus giving women the right to vote. While it was a young man who cast that vote, he did so with the urging of his mother, Mrs. Phoebe Burn. Holding a letter from his mother, he explained his fateful vote: "I knew that a mother's advice is always safest for a boy to follow and my mother wanted me to vote for ratification."



It is hard to believe that we will celebrate the centennial of that vote next year. Through the lens of the past, one hundred years doesn't seem very long at all. It is a sobering reminder of how far we have come and how far we have yet to go in realizing the promise of our country as one founded on equality and liberty.

March is designated officially as Women's History Month, and, while this recognition is a fine sentiment, a better remembrance might be to stake our own claim in that history. We need not be trailblazers like Marie Curie or Shirley Chisholm; our claims may be modest or unacknowledged. In our own sphere of influence, we can create a lasting legacy that may not make anyone's history book. It will live on in lives we've touched, communities we've served, and the love we've shared.

As we celebrate Founders' Day next month, we will honor the visionary women who came before us to give women educators a stronger voice. Let's look *forward*, too, in envisioning the next century of empowerment and action.

♪ With this faith in one another ♪



Jeanie

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UPCOMING EVENTS

FOUNDERS' DAY 2019

Founders' Day will be held on **Saturday, April 13th at 12 p.m.**

Our chapter is in charge of decorations, printed program, name tags, name cards for guests, and the meditation.

Volunteers are needed for the following:

- Set-up (11:00 a.m.) & clean-up
- Someone to give the meditation
- Name cards for guests
- Framed photos of past Alpha Xi events for table decorations
- Candy or other goody for tables.



Annie Webb Blanton

The meal for Founders' Day costs \$15. Money is due to Karen Phillips by **Wednesday, March 27th.**

Karen's address: 6603 State Line Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37412

-OR- Pay Norma Cate at the March 12th meeting.

Meet me in Sewanee!

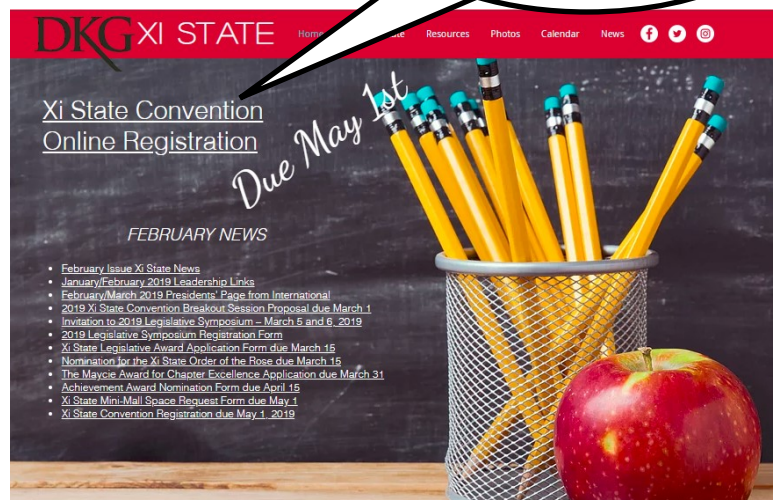
Make plans to attend the state convention

Thursday, May 30, - Saturday, June 1.

Registration is due **May 1st**

Register online at xistate.org

Check out the new look of the Xi State website and register online for the State Convention!



MEMBER NEWS

Liz Morton Calendar Project



In January, Suzanne Rushworth and her husband Rick delivered calendars to the Veterans Hospital in Murfreesboro donated by members of Alpha Xi.

Judy Leach Honored

Judy Leach was honored at the February meeting for 50 years of membership. As she received her pin, Norma Cate related the many offices and highlights of her service to Alpha Xi and Delta Kappa Gamma. Thank you, Judy for all you have done and the incredible legacy of service you have established.



Beverly Smith Nominated

Congratulations to Beverly Smith who has been nominated to serve on the Xi State Personnel Committee for 2019-2021, representing East Tennessee!

Membership Dues should be paid to Karen Phillips by
June 30, 2019



Karen Phillips sent the following note earlier this month regarding payments :

"Since I will not be at the March meeting, Norma Cate has agreed to collect the Founders' Day checks for me. So if you would prefer not to mail yours and will be at the March meeting, just give your \$15 check made out to Alpha Xi to her.

Also, if you know you will not be at Founders' Day and you are at the March meeting, you can give her your \$80 check, also made out to Alpha Xi, for your dues. REMEMBER, INTERNATIONAL CHANGED THE DUE DATE TO JUNE 30th this year, so the Founders' Day meeting will be our last chance to get together before that date."

Jeanie will have a copy of our bank account number at the March meeting, if you want to transfer the funds electronically to us. I just ask that you e-mail me that you have done it because I won't know until the bank statement arrives.

LEGISLATIVE SYMPOSIUM REPORT

On March 5-6, 2019, Xi State members attended the Legislative symposium. On Tuesday evening, a panel of state legislators and the director of the Retired Teachers Association took pre-submitted questions from Xi state DKG members.

The panel was comprised of Sen Jon Lundberg, Rep John DeBerry, Rep Harold Love, Rep John Ragan, Rep Terri Weaver, and Director Donna Cotner (Beta Rho)

Among the question topics were protecting teacher time, concerns with testing & accountability, legislative changes to time devoted to testing (limiting time), teacher salaries, charter schools, vouchers, elected state board of education, incentives for recruiting teachers hard to fill positions (STEM, etc.)



Highlights:

All agreed that teachers' accountability should not be weighed by a faulty state testing apparatus.

Legislature is considering limitations on how much instructional time should be devoted to *state* testing. (LEA's have their own tests, too)

The Governor's State of the State was referenced several times: re. teacher pay increase (2.5% on the state scale). Legislators aware of how "teacher compensation" funds are interpreted by local districts, often watering down what actually gets to classroom teachers)

Re. Governor's support of charter schools and vouchers (educational savings accounts)

(panelists split on vouchers)



Wednesday morning, members heard from new Commissioner of Education, Dr. Penny Schwinn.

She discussed her experiences as a teacher and administrator, citing personal relationships with students and parents as a guide in her decision making.

As an administrator of a charter school, she is aware that some charters "cherry-pick" their student populations and is against this practice.

Among her initial priorities will be making sure that state testing is overhauled and legitimized.

She has visited and will continue to visit schools throughout the state.

All legislators and the Commissioner stressed multiple times their desire to hear from educators regarding specific budget priorities and programs.

(Report submitted by Jeanie McKenna)

To find out what's happening at the state level, visit

Xistate.org

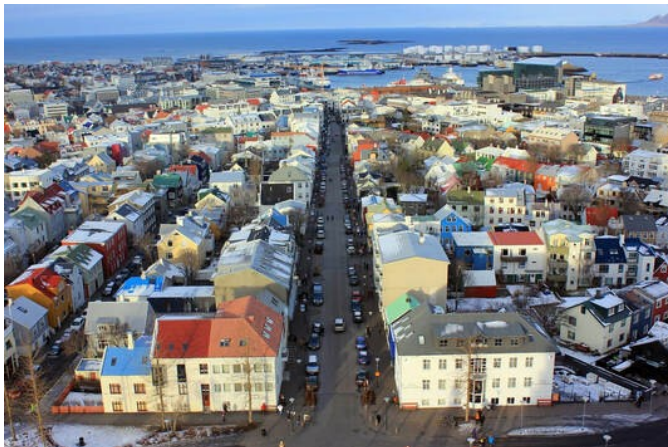
For up-to-date information about Alpha Xi Chapter, visit the website at

<http://alphaxichattanooga.weebly.com/>

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



The 2019 international conference will be held in Asheville, NC, **June 27-29, 2019**. Please put this date on your calendar. The theme for the conference is the Arts and Humanities. Workshop topics include storytelling, music, books, and writing. You will also be able to learn about the city of Asheville while visiting sites such as Biltmore House and Gardens, Asheville Art District, Appalachian Crafts Center, and Blue Ridge Parkway. Go to www.dkg.org to register!



Delta Kappa Gamma European Conference

Professional Research and Practices

Reykjavik, Iceland

July 25-27, 2019

Registration now open at dkg.org

CARING FOR OUR MEMBERS

Member Updates & Concerns

Our heart-felt sympathy goes out to **Jeanette Esch** and her family in the passing of her brother-in-law;

We also share in **Betty Julian's** grief in the loss of her life-long friend.

Continue to remember **Betty Thomason** who was hospitalized last month.



March

18 Lisa Bayless

24 Karen Phillips

27 Barbara Carlton

April

9 Michelle Bailey

10 Beverly Smith

30 Ernestine Eldridge