

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.

“Focus on the Real Common CORE: Cultivating Our Renewed Excitement”

Dear Sisters,

Like it or not we are now a month into 2015. All those things we planned to do last year are lost opportunities. Now what will we do this year? I am sure many of you made New Year's resolutions--some may be already forgotten--but we all made them. We still have eleven months of 2015 before us-- a clean slate to make a difference in our lives and those of others. Before we get too scattered here, I challenge each of you to think about what each of us can do with Alpha Xi. We have goals as a chapter, but what are your personal goals as a member of the chapter? What can you do both to enjoy and benefit from your membership?

I'll give you a few ideas since we have lots of interesting things ahead of us. Our next meeting is February 21 at The Tea Cottage in East Brainerd at 10:30 am. This will be our Legislative meeting with Rep. Mike Carter as speaker.

The Advanced Leadership Management Seminar will be March 20-21 at the Henry Horton State Park. Have you completed the Basic Leadership and are waiting for the opportunity to continue? Register by February 21. On March 14(10:30 am) we will meet at Red Bank United Methodist Church with our membership committee leading the program. This will be catered breakfast with a cost of \$8.00. Our focus will be on gaining and retaining members. We plan to ask several younger members to share their expectations of membership in DKG. At this time we will also bring children and



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young adult books for Northside Neighborhood House as well as a book to share with a fellow reader.

The Founders' Day Brunch will be April 25 (10:30) at the Chatt State Faculty Dining Room. Our chapter is responsible for the decorations, printed program and moment of inspiration. Reservations will be due by mid April. We will provide more details as they become available.

In addition, we are also preparing for the upcoming State Convention (June 4-6). The decorations for the Presidents' Banquet are our responsibility shared with Alpha Zeta. This will be Beverly's last banquet as Xi State president. I hope we can have a large contingent to attend to show our support for her as she completes her term. We are also preparing an "Apple" themed basket for the Silent Auction at Xi State--ideas and/or donations are welcome for this project.

These are the plans for the spring and that leaves seven more months in 2015 for us to fill with activities that are important to us. What will they be? Your ideas will help us decide. I am looking forward to what we can do in 2015.

Sincerely,
Deana James

ALPHA XI MEMBERS ATTEND LEGISLATIVE SYMPOSIUM

Five members attended the 2015 Xi State Legislative Symposium in Nashville February 3 and 4. Xi State President Beverly Smith welcomed over 100 members from all over the state, including Jeanette Esch, Wendy Morgan, and Deana James. Karen Phillips has served as chair of the Legislation Committee for the past two years. The committee chose "Cultivating Educational Relationships with Legislators" as the theme this year.



Tuesday evening members participated in a panel discussion with legislators and representatives of TEA. Senator Dolores Gresham, Representatives Raumesch Akbari and Johnny Shaw, Jim Wrye of TEA, and Donna Cotner of TRTA answered questions sent in by members. Topics included funding, graduation requirements, testing, and charter schools. Panelists were very knowledgeable and answered questions with insight and humor.



Wednesday morning's breakfast speaker was the new Tennessee Commissioner of Education, Dr. Candice McQueen. She outlined her priorities for the next four years. They included encouraging students to continue their education after high school, continuing the gains made in improving test scores, improving teacher training programs, and increasing and improving pre-k programs so that students arrive at kindergarten ready to learn. She encouraged us to "work hard, work smart, and work together." Everyone was very impressed with this young, energetic woman.

After breakfast, members went to the capitol to visit legislators. Alpha Xi members, joined by Allison Maynard from Gamma Lambda, were able to speak with six of the seven members of the Hamilton County delegation. Many were involved in the big insurance debate that was happening in the special session but took time out to listen to our concerns.

Two of the purposes of DKG are concerned with legislation and political issues. One of the best ways to become involved is to attend the Legislative Symposium. Think about going next February.



Beverly Smith and Karen Phillips (Alpha XI)
Joanne Favors and Allison Roberts (Gamma Lambda)



Alpha Xi members with Representative Patsy Hazelwood

<u>Member Birthdays</u>	
February	March
21 Rose Dover	15 Holly Bohmfalk
28 Diamond Kelley	20 Gail Huffstutler
	24 Karen Phillips
	27 Barbara Carlton



JEANETTE ESCH FILLS FIRST VICE PRESIDENT VACANCY

According to the chapter rules, the president can fill any positions that occur in the executive board during the biennium. Deana has asked Jeanette Esch, and she has agreed to complete the term of Anna Harrington, who resigned in December. Jeanette is a former chapter president who was already acting in an advisory role.

IMPORTANT DATES



- February 21st The Tea Cottage @ 10:30 a.m.
Hickory Valley Road
Cost: \$15.00 (includes tax and gratuity)
Speaker: State Rep. Mike Carter
- March 1st Deadline for High School Essay Contest Entries
Contact Maxine Williams for details
- March 14th Red Bank United Methodist Church @ 10:00 a.m.
Catered: Southern Restaurant (\$8.00)
- April 25th Chattanooga State Faculty Dining Room @ 10:30 a.m.
- June 9th TBD @ 11:00 a.m.
Board Planning Meeting

CONCERNS

- LIZ MORTON HAS BEEN HAVING PROBLEMS WITH HER LEG DUE TO BACK PROBLEMS. SHE HAS BEGUN THERAPY AT HER RESIDENCE.
- NANCY BIBLER IS STILL AT SISKIN BUT WILL GO HOME SOON.

HARRIETT HARRIS IS DOING WELL AT HOME AND HAS FINISHED PHYSICAL THERAPY.

