

# 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,

Summer is here and with it comes the heat as well as the time to gather with those who choose to spend their vacations visiting with family and friends. Most of these occasions are fun-filled with catching up on all the news since we last saw them. We are all amazed at how fast the children have grown. Fortunately, we kindly remark that the year has made not a difference in the adults. We were happy to share such an occasion with Eloise Litz as her family celebrated her 95th birthday at the end of June. Unfortunately we have several members who have lost family members this spring and summer. Family and friends gathered to support them and share in memories of good times. For those members who have lost a dear one, we send our love and the gift of friendship. As summer heats, up teachers feel the pull of the classroom and begin to prepare for the new school year. I always loved to see the faces of my new students who were just as hopeful for the new year as their teachers were. Hope for a successful year shows in their bright eyes. The challenge is to keep that confidence and hope alive for the rest of the year. What a challenge for our members who are still in the classroom! The challenge for our chapter is to plan an exciting year and continue to be as enthusiastic in January as we are in September. Several committees are already making plans and others will begin soon. Upcoming events include our annual picnic July 27, 5:30-8:00, at the picnic grounds at Camp Jordan. Maxine and Kim will be introducing the winner of our chapter's high school essay contest and the grant-in-aid recipient. We hope, also, to meet some prospective members who have been invited to the picnic. Fellowship is the center of the event as families join us in sharing a pot luck meal. Be sure to sign up for something to bring.



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Ask members who attended the State Convention and/or the Southeastern Regional Meeting about their experiences and what they would like to see our chapter do at this informal meeting.

I will be unable to attend as my children and grandchildren will be in town at that time. Please enjoy and get excited about what we can accomplish this year. I hope to see everyone at the September 22nd chapter meeting at Ridgedale Baptist.

Sincerely,  
*Deana James*

## MEMBER NEWS

### PAM THOMPSON SELECTED FOR TWO IMPORTANT STATE ROLES

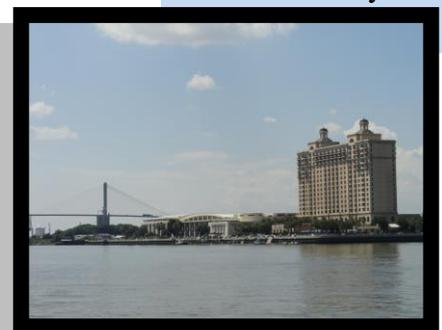
Alpha Xi member Pam Thompson was chosen as one of thirty teachers from across the state to participate in the Tennessee State Teacher Fellows Program. The Fellowship consists of teachers and coaches who serve as spokespeople for positive change in the profession through connecting with other teachers and local and national policymakers. Teacher Fellows will meet with local and state leaders to help create practical solutions to address public education policy issues. They will also work to provide peer feedback to the state Department of Education on critical classroom educational policies. Pam's position on the TEA Board of Directors will aid her in accomplishing these goals.

We are very proud to have Pam as one of our chapter members. She is working tirelessly to improve education in our state.



Karen Phillips, Barbara Carlton, Donna Lamkin, and Beverly Smith attended Southeast Regional in Savannah.

Savannah was lovely, but very hot and humid. The speakers were outstanding and the sessions very informative.



### July

1 Eloise Litz  
7 Norma Cate  
13 Mary Blackwell  
15 Connie Howard  
25 Janie Sue Massey

Happy Birthday

### August

5 Marguerite Santich  
7 Jeanette Esch  
14 Betty Julian  
15 Dot Bayless  
15 Julie Hughes  
15 Suzanne Rushworth  
18 Pam Thompson  
18 Esther Clark  
21 Maxine Williams  
31 Betty Thomason



*United Way of Chattanooga is implementing a new literacy program, called Reading Eggs, into the childcare centers they service. Hamilton County Department of Education is already using this program in their Pre-K classrooms and they want to be sure the children they are serving are receiving the same curriculum to help ensure they are on target when they enter Kindergarten. This is a computer based early literacy program that covers letter recognition, letter sounds, beginning and ending sounds, etc. They are looking for volunteers who would like to work with the preschoolers individually within the classrooms to help guide the children through the program. They of course would provide training for the computer program. They will also need volunteers who would be able to commit to working each week in a selected center and classroom during the morning hours. Each child needs to spend about 10 minutes, 2-3 times a week working with the curriculum.*



**United Way of  
Greater Chattanooga**

*Please pass along this information to retired teachers to see if anyone might be interested in volunteering. Anyone interested can either call Cara Woodall at 752-0312 or email [carawoodall@uwchatt.org](mailto:carawoodall@uwchatt.org).*



### CONCERNS

Nancy Bibler's son Andy passed away suddenly the first of July. He was 48 years old.

Harriett Harris had back surgery July 21st. She will be going for rehab for a while.

Judy Leach's husband, Scott, recently had a mild stroke. He is adjusting to impaired vision. She and Scott will certainly appreciate our prayers.



## Xi State Convention Highlights

- ✓ Being a part of Xi State Convention 2015 was memorable because Alpha Xi's Beverly Smith presided in her final biennium as Xi State President with gracious presentations at the General Sessions, Presidents' Banquet, and other events.



- ✓ 14 Alpha Xi Members: Nancy Bibler, Esther Clark, Jeanette Esch, Harriett Harris, Julie Hughes, Deana James, Donna Lamkin, Eloise Litz, Karen Phillips, Wendy Morgan, Esther Taj, Pam Thompson, Kim Thurman, and Maxine Williams, attended and participated in the convention, as well as presenting Beverly with a chapter gift.

- ✓ Also, Julie Hughes, serving as Xi State Music Chair, directed the Xi State Chorus and convention attendees in melodies that uplifted.

- ✓ The Gold Excellence Award for Alpha Xi, Karen Phillips heading the Forum, Donna Lamkin presenting a workshop, Deana James giving the "Welcome" and Esther Clark the "Inspiration" at the Presidents' Banquet, Jeanette Esch's designing the decorations, organizing them, and transporting them with help from Wendy Morgan, and the invaluable help to me of Nancy Bibler, Harriett Harris, Kim Thurman, Karen Phillips, and Eloise Litz in decorating Upper Cravens were some of the convention highlights.



- ✓ Finally, being a Xi State Rules Committee Member, I enjoyed working with other committee members at the display prepared by Rules chair, Jensi Souders, to guide chapters in Rules deadlines. Alpha Xi is in the top tier of chapters with Rules approved until 2017-2018.
- ✓ Let's give a "shout out" to Karen Phillips for our chapter's placement. How exciting it was to have been a part of Beverly's directorship as Xi State President and to show our appreciation at the Xi State Convention!

—Maxine Williams



Do not forget to check out our website!

<http://alphaxichattanooga.weebly.com>

### IMPORTANT DATES



- July 27 Family picnic at Camp Jordan 5:00  
sign up at [www.perfectpotluck.com](http://www.perfectpotluck.com)
- September 22 Chapter meeting at Ridgedale Baptist Church 5:30  
Spanish Fiesta \$13
- October 22 Chapter meeting at Hixson United Methodist Church 5:30  
Vote on new members, covered dish
- November Joint initiation TBA
- December 14 Christmas Tea

