

# 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”

Beautiful Ladies,

October has really come quickly for me this year. In fact, I am in awe that our meeting is this Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>! At this meeting, we will celebrate literacy as Suzanne Rushworth brings us what is sure to be another interesting look at how literacy instruction is being implemented in our classrooms. Please remember to bring books to donate to the Northside Neighborhood House and our friends at East Lake Elementary. Also, remember your book for the book swap and a 2014 calendar to donate to the Liz Morton Veteran’s Calendar Project.

In addition to literacy, we will be voting on new members who have applied to join our wonderful organization. Please come prepared to learn about prospective new members and vote on the extension of membership privileges to them. Also, during this time of membership renewal, I encourage you to connect with previous members who might be interested in rejoining us. Member dues are \$80 this year, and are due to Judy Leach by the end of this month.

I hope that all of you are able to be with us for our meeting this week at the Brainerd BX. Thanks to Deana for booking this location, Beverly for helping with set-up & decorations, and Suzanne for preparing and presenting the program. See you soon!



*Gail Huffstutler*



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## IMPORTANT DATES

- October 15, 2013 Brainerd BX: 5:30 with dinner at 6:00  
Literacy program presented by Alpha Xi member Suzanne Rushworth
- November 12, 2013 Joint Initiation at 6:00pm at Brainerd United Methodist Church
- December 1, 2013 Deadline to send in 2013 XI State Convention Workshop Proposals to state  
First Vice-President
- December 2013 TBA (December 3<sup>rd</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>) Christmas Party at Nancy Bibler's home
- December 31, 2013 Deadline to apply to XI State Vision Foundation for grants and/or Liz  
Whorley Bradley Professional Growth Awards
- February 4-5, 2014 Legislative Symposium
- March 15, 2014 Deadline to submit a nomination for Order of the Rose. See Xi  
State website for details.

## CONCERNS



- HARRIET HARRIS' HUSBAND IS HAVING HEART AND NECK ISSUES
- BILLIE BACON IS CONTINUING TO RECOVER AFTER HAVING HER BLADDER REMOVED, AND HER HUSBAND IS CONTINUING LEUKEMIA TREATMENTS
- LYNN MYERS IS HAVING WEEKLY TRIAL TREATMENTS @ SARAH CANNON CANCER CENTER IN NASHVILLE
- LIZ MORTON WAS DIAGNOSED WITH LUPUS POLIOMYELITIS
- MAXINE WILLIAMS' NIECE IS CONTINUING CANCER TREATMENTS
- BEVERLY SMITH'S CONTINUING CHEMOTHERAPY



## Alpha Xi Sends Representatives to Xi State Committee Planning

Nine members of Alpha Xi traveled to Murfreesboro on September 20 and 21 to take part in the Xi State Committee Planning for the next two years. Friday night our own Beverly Smith, Xi State President, welcomed other officers, area directors, and committee chairs to Whitworth-Buchanan Middle School to begin working on what the full committees would need to know on Saturday. Julie Hughes, Music chair, and Karen Phillips, Legislation chair, attended. On Saturday morning they were joined by Norma Cate, State Projects; Nancy Bibler, Educational Excellence; Harriett Harris, Achievement Award; Connie Howard, Technology; Kim Thurman, Educational Excellence, and Maxine Williams, Rules. Julie led the approximately 100 members in two fun and inspiring songs before everyone separated to do their committee work. Committee members set goals and began working toward accomplishing them. Everyone enjoyed meeting others from across the state and helping Beverly take care of the business of Xi State.



Anna Harrington, Membership, and Donna Lamkin, Educational Excellence, will also be representing Alpha Xi on their state committees.

### Additional News:

- **Debbie Stephenson is doing well after heart surgery**
- **Charlotte Lasater's family recently celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in Red Bank**
- **Karen Phillips recently returned from a Florida Trip**

### Member Birthdays

November	December	January
17 Taffe Bishop	10 Geraldine Lentz	1 Lynn Meyer
21 Harriet Bond	11 Mary Katherine Pace	8 Joyce Campbell
23 Brenda Hooper	25 Esther Taj	10 Deana James
27 June Bowling	25Tommye Chesney	12 Barbara Nelson
	27 Peggy Wright	21 Jennifer McElwain
	28 Donna Lamkin	25 Cythia Blakemore
		30 Judy Leach





Do not forget to check out our new website!!!

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

Left to right: Connie Howard, Maxine Williams, Karen Phillips, Julie Hughes, Harriet Harris, Norma Cate, Nancy Bibler, Kim Thurman, and Beverly Smith



### **Highlights from the Education Forum hosted by Alpha Phi Chapter Delta Kappa Gamma Society International on October 3, 2013**

#### **What is the greatest challenge facing Hamilton County schools?**

Dr. Warren Mackey: There is a disparity between schools in outlying areas and the urban core. The schools in the urban core tend to have weak or non-existent PTAs because parents do not have knowledge of resources. Crime is another challenge in these areas.

#### **What is being done to help early career educators stay more than 3-5 years?**

Dr. Dan Challenger: A study of the Benwood Initiative showed that teachers felt leadership was the most important factor in a school. Middle school instructional coaches have been added. A residency program is being implemented.

#### **Instructional coaching positions have been cut on the high school level. Why?**

Mr. Rick Smith: This was the result of budget cuts. More students are in the elementary and middle schools. If we can take care of things there, it will help on the high school level.

#### **All 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will take the TCAP writing assessment on computers in the spring, yet students have no computers to use for practice. What is Hamilton Co. doing about this?**

Mr. Rick Smith: Hamilton Co. is working on the infrastructure and adding band width. This should be ready at each school in the spring. The central office is aware of the insufficient devices and the lack of keyboarding skills.

*These notes are merely highlights of summaries of the actual questions asked by the moderator and the answers given by the panelists.*

