

KENTUCKY STATE ORGANIZATION



NEWS



The five chapters of the Louisville Area Coordinating Council (Alpha, Theta, Xi, Sigma and Alpha Beta) enjoyed their annual joint luncheon today at the Alumnae Club at the University of Louisville. Kentucky State President Dr. Beth Pyle was our special guest and speaker. She shared with us her thoughts on “Stepping Up Sometimes Requires Looking Back” by sharing excerpts from her great aunt’s journals, which were from 1902-1908. She was a teacher in rural upstate New York.



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Fall Workshop Is Cancelled

President's Message

Beth's Blog – These last few months have certainly changed how we interact with each other and I fear COVID-19 will be altering our lives for some time to come. Unfortunately, it is difficult, if not impossible, to fully recognize what those changes will be. And this is what keeps me up at night and lethargic during the day --- trying to make the right decisions for the health and welfare of all KY DKG sisters and their families.

Those of you still teaching have had to embrace your students, teaching, learning, and technology like never before – a daunting task but you have prevailed because that is what teachers do! I hope that parents have come to the realization that a teacher's work is hard and never ending; it will be interesting to see if this realization continues once face-to-face school returns. (I see future university research in this area).



Unfinished Business

Because the State Convention in March was cancelled, we have some business that needs to be completed --- amendments of our State By-laws and Standing rules. Although changes required of us to make because of International changes were previously approved, we do have a few amendments that effect just our by-laws/standing rules. I would like to handle these in a face-to-face meeting (hopefully at Fall Conference). Another item of business at the Fall Conference is the budget although it could possibly be handled through an electronic vote. Recognition of chapters' and members' accomplishments also need to be done as well as the remembrance of those members we lost. We can do these things both electronically and/or in-person.

Baskets for the silent auction and grab bags will need to be done in-person (Spring 2021 State Convention); hopefully, those who had already created a basket can dust them off and use them in the future. Our service project, used markers, can still be collected at Fall Conference.

Current Reminders

Pay your dues before June 30, 2020

Consider "stepping up" to serve your chapter as a committee member or chair.

Consider a state committee – I am still in need of a Leadership Development chair and an Scholarship chair. Please contact me if interested.

Be sure to send in the form for your chapter's new officers to International and me before the end of June. Remember if your chapter has not met face-to-face, you can vote for your chapter's officers electronically. Also, please note your chapter's membership chair; receiving this information is important so they can be contacted for officer training.

Future Events

Now that the July International Convention has been cancelled (as well as our Leadership Retreat in June), the next event is our Fall Conference, September 11-12, in Lexington. It is months away, but what will the future hold in terms of COVID-19? I have been in contact with the hotel and they are still up in the air with how COVID-19 will impact the hotel's operations at that time. We are making preliminary plans for officers' training for Fall Conference, but with all the uncertainty it is difficult to know the final outcome. Therefore, I need each of you to let me know how you feel about gathering in Lexington in September --- if all systems are go, will you feel comfortable traveling and meeting (consider this as an officer and as a general member). My preliminary plan is to have a short business meeting, officer training, lunch, memorial service, and optional sessions for the general membership (book talk?). The format of the conference and its schedule will be shaped by YOUR opinions, so please let me know via a return email. The 2019-2021 biennium officers were elected to serve you so please share your thoughts.

How quickly circumstances change --- After submitting this article to Susan to be included in the next newsletter, I received an email from the Embassy Suites about our Fall Conference. We were given a deadline of May 31, 2020, to let them know if we were going to have the Fall Conference or cancel it (without a monetary penalty). I immediately contacted the state Executive Board for their input; I did hear from a majority of the Exec Board and chapters and from their comments and a Zoom officers meeting on Tuesday, May 26, it was decided to CANCEL the Fall Conference (face-to-face) and provide officer training via Zoom or Google Meetings.

Our rationale was based on the following: Since we cannot look into the future with any guarantees about the what the Covid-19 restrictions will be at that time, we cannot take on this financial obligation for our state organization. In addition, we must put a heavy emphasis on the health and safety of our membership; the majority of respondents indicated that even if there were no travel or meeting size restrictions in September they would not be attending out of concern for their own health and the health of family members. Many commented on the inability to social distance during the conference.

Chapters will be receiving information about officers' training in the upcoming months (hence the importance of knowing who the chapter officers are for 2020-2022).

Besides a Zoom/Google meeting for each office, I think it would be possible to have one for a book discussion. I still have the list of books submitted after our last conference book discussion, but if anyone knows of a great book to read and discuss, please let me know.

One last request – if your chapter will be meeting via Zoom please send me an invitation. I would love to meet with you via the Internet since traveling to you physically is not an option at this time.

Thank you all for your patience, understanding, and your help in making these importance decisions – you all have certainly lessened my burden; the 2019-2021 years will be forever remembered as the COVID-19 biennium. Stay safe and healthy – wash your hands, wear a mask when out in public and practice social distancing ----please. We are family.....

Educational Excellence

Chair News



AND THE WINNER IS . . .

What a time we are experiencing! And were we prepared for a time such as this? There is not a day that passes during which my thoughts wander to how things should have gone and what they might have been. Then I stop and count my blessings. Instead of thinking about all the things that I have lost during this Covid season (time with grandchildren, teaching students face to face, field trips, etc.), I started to appreciate the extra time I get to spend with my husband, Bob, for example, and the time to deep clean our home – LOL. It has been fun turning our dining room into a restaurant type setting and just pretending that we have gone out to eat. We have lost two relatives via Covid-19 and I extend prayers to any of you who have lost loved ones during this time of social distancing and closure. Thank goodness, we have one another to turn to during this strange time. It is a time such as this that sisterhood comes close to the heart.

Sisterhood comes in many forms. Our state president, Beth, is doing an outstanding job leading us through this pandemic. There are so many things to weigh in on and consider. Great work, Beth! And our various committees have had to make new decisions about some scheduled activities/events. Since we cannot meet face to face, there are ways to meet: Zoom, Google Meet, Facebook Live, and so on. If your chapter wants to get together virtually and you need help setting up a meeting, please feel free to contact me and I will be glad to assist you – or ask one of your younger members or an active teacher as many of us have made it through this school year virtually.

And before we announce our 2020 EEC winners, I want to thank the Excellence in Education Committee and all who helped score the applications that were submitted. We will formally announce and present the awards at our next face to face gathering, whenever that may be.

And the winners for the Annie Program Award are:

1st place goes to Zeta Chapter! Zeta submitted *Connecting Resources to Needs* which was a societal and fellowship program. From the application: “Master Provisions is a vibrant, faith-based Mission in Northern Kentucky, whose primary goal is Serving God by Connecting Resources with Needs. They collect surplus resources and distribute them to people in need, working until every physical and spiritual need is fulfilled. In Northern KY and Greater Cincinnati, they receive donated surplus food from area wholesalers and make it available to feed hungry people. This food is fresh and nutritious and would otherwise go to a landfill. Members of Zeta Chapter became involved and met needs of persons in the community and were engaged in providing for physical and spiritual needs of others. The volunteers (Zeta Sisters and others) who help collect and distribute the resources show tremendous personal growth by being involved in giving and helping others. When the educator who is sharing her time connects with a family in poverty and becomes a counselor figure, she is helping herself and others grow physically, emotionally, and spiritually.” Zeta’s program included a speaker from Master Provisions and the members discussed ways to become involved in helping within the community. Through Zeta’s water bottle challenge and money collection they were able to feed 2500 people in the region and this is but one as-

pect of how this program impacted both members of Zeta and the community. Congratulations, Zeta!

2nd place goes to Mu Chapter! Mu submitted *It's Never Too Late – Sharing Lessons from a Folk School* which was a personal, societal, and fellowship program. From their submission: “At the first meeting of the year, Mu Chapter had a special treat. Having implemented a new grant for our members last year, we were given the fruits of our endowment. One of our own members played the harp and presented a program on her recent experience at a Folk School, sharing her personal and professional growth with our members. Mu’s Deborah Couch was able to present a program as the result of a desire to attend the John C. Campbell Folk School in North Carolina to take a continuing harp class. To offset the cost of registration she applied for the mini grant offered by Mu chapter. Her program included a brief history of the harp, preservation of its music, the harp's importance politically, and techniques used in playing the harp.” Mu’s program sounded inspiring and both honors women and advancing our interests in DKG. And what a great way to start their year! Members were so excited about the program that they encouraged the state leaders to consider it for a fall workshop session. Congratulations, Mu! Way to go, Deborah!

And the winner for the Annie Project Award goes to Beta Chapter! Their project was entitled *Destination Read!* and it was a societal and very inspiring project. We were very impressed with Beta’s endeavors and this stand-alone project has now become a program. From their application:

“Destination Read was born of our group’s love of reading. It was born of our need to unite our members in a meaningful project that would honor the memory of our sisters passed and to reinforce our existence with a genuine fellowship project. These desires tempered with our collective years in the classroom, the input of our active reading teacher and after doing a little research, we knew we had the answer. We would support the youngest of readers with not only reading role models but faces they knew from the community, their Sunday School classes and teachers that had been their parents’, siblings’ or even in some cases their grandparents’ teacher. We would integrate ourselves in their school, celebrate our connections with their current teachers and bring the magic of a new adventures found in vibrant stories and our experiences.” Your Beta sisters who have passed would be proud of this project! Congratulations, Beta!

Note: I will be returning applications of those who did not win with an explanation of why your project or program did not receive an award along with your scores from those who helped.

And now the Educational Excellence in the Classroom Award . . .

We had very good candidates from which to choose and deciding was not easy. Our winners will be highlighted in the next edition of our state newsletter. There were several applicants and despite having extended the deadline, all were submitted early. Our 2020 winners tied for 1st place. The tie removes second place which in turn, make a 3rd place winner. Thanks, everyone!

1st place goes to Miranda Kaye Tieman (Zeta) and Connie Curry (Upsilon)

3rd place goes to Angie Foster (Beta)

Miranda is a theatre arts instructor, Connie is a classroom occupational therapist, and Angie is a reading interventionist. Congratulations, ladies! You are truly key women educators and each of you will be featured in our next newsletter.



Membership News

Lucy Riffle

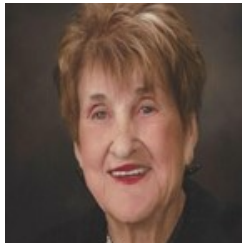
NEWS FROM MEMBERSHIP by Lucy Riffle, 2nd VP

While we're all at home contemplating life, how are you keeping in touch with your sisters? Are you calling ones who are under quarantine? Sending notes? Posting on social media?? Remember, we will get through this TOGETHER!! Our sisters from all over the world are dealing with the same thing. But your sisters need to hear from you – so reach out to them.

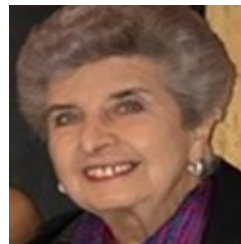
Since we didn't get to hold the State Convention – we missed being about to memorialize our sisters who had passed this year. This doesn't mean that we forgot them!!! They were part of us – and we honor their memory.

SISTERS WE LOST THIS PAST YEAR:

ALPHA IOTA – Mary Katherine Armstrong



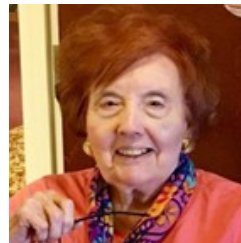
ALPHA BETA – Betsy Holton



ALPHA IOTA – Martha Rogers



ALPHA BETA – Alice Maxine Stickler



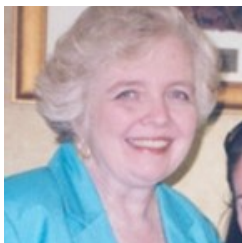
ALPHA BETA – Marianne Carter Humphries



ALPHA BETA – Margaret "Peggy" Osborne Williams



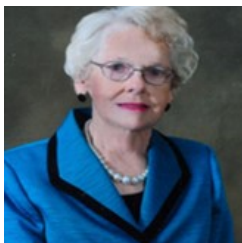
ALPHA EPSILON – Kaye Warren Wilkins



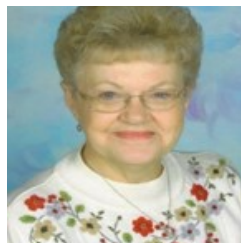
Nu - Ruby Jean Elkins Hill



CHI – Mary Weldon DuLaney



Nu – Peggy Tussey



DELTA – Dorothy Grise Dodson



ZETA – Ruth Jennings



NU- Dr. Mary Pauline Fox



XI – Clara Helen Randle



We will always be grateful for our sisters who have left us. They strengthened us for our future journey and will forever be a part of who we are as a Society.

Chapter News

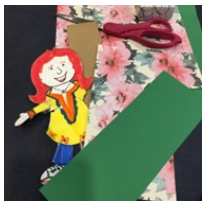
ALPHA CHAPTER

Before having to *stay safe* at home, Alpha members enjoyed their annual Christmas meeting at the Hall of Fame Cardinal Café in Louisville. In January, Bunny Nash presented a sequel for trauma informed instruction and final plans were made for the annual five-chapter luncheon (Alpha, Theta, Xi, Sigma, Alpha Beta). On February 29, Alpha hosted the annual joint luncheon at U of L's University Club. Beth Pyle, state president, spoke on how "Stepping Up Sometimes Requires Looking Back." She spoke about her dissertation work which involved letters from her grandmother who was also a teacher and by the sounds of her work, she was most definitely a key educator. While Beth took us back into time, she also pointed out how relevant some of the letters were to us as educators today. Thank you, Beth, for an inspiring presentation! And thanks to all members who joined us on Leap Day – giving DKG time on their extra day in the year!

Alpha officers elected for the new biennium: Lynne Hewson, president; Cindy Webb, 1st vice-president; Mary Faye Carr, 2nd vice-president; Gwen Hardin, Secretary; Bunny Nash, treasurer; and Beverly Westphal, parliamentarian. Officers will be installed at our next face to face meeting, to be determined. We wish all well during this unprecedented time of Covid-19.

BETA CHAPTER

When you are small in number and have experienced the loss of two of your mainstay members with the last year, you have to really think out of the box. And that's what we tried to do this year. Our focus the past year has been reaching out to our active teachers in ways that build teacher morale, bring visibility to our Chapter and staying in contact with our local schools; and always in hopes of building new membership. We participate in all the conference and state events in large numbers for our small group. We were proud to submit two projects for state awards this year, something we hadn't accomplished in the recent past.



We completed several projects such as collecting hats, gloves, socks for the elementary, collecting books to present to teachers for their classroom collections, designed and carried our personalize "Beta" paper dolls to events ranging from the a Chicago marathon, the Legislature, state conference, Christmas at Spindletop, and even Panama City Beach! We launched two Destination

Read projects where our retired members working with an active member in an elementary visited the building two times during the year to read to more than 275 children each visit, carrying with us a book selected for the classroom and left behind to keep children engaged. Our chapter added bookmarks and pencils for every child and a gift for the teacher (4 Sharpies and a thank you note that said "Thank you for leaving a mark on the future").



Chapter News

This was so successful; several teachers became classroom volunteers and continued to visit. The events put a smile on the faces of kids, teachers and our members alike. And we have two new interested future members!

After all who better knows the value of engaging readers! We have become lobbyists for reading. It took only a brief introduction to the membership to get them on board. After all who loves to read to kids better than teachers? It was a very successful project we had planned to repeat in another elementary but unfortunately had to cancel due the early end of the school year. But there's always next year...

ZETA CHAPTER



Zeta Chapter had a productive year making a difference in our community. In June, a group of Zeta sisters went to the Lincoln Grant Scholar House to help the children make Father's Day crafts and cards. Debbie Morris led craft time and provided all the supplies to make pencil cup holders, and Sandye Curry provided all the supplies for the special Father's Day cards. Also on this visit, Debbie Onkst took graduation cards for the LGSH graduates, and June Madison took gently used sports equipment and school supplies to donate. Lynn Mays donated at least a dozen books which will be used in the soon-to-be-renovated library of the LGSH.

Zeta sisters along with Xi Chapter of Louisville had a social gathering by visiting Old Friends Farm near Georgetown and ate at Cracker Barrel following our tour. We learned about the resident, retired race horses and their personalities and special needs/wishes. It was a wonderful opportunity to make new friends with KSO sisters we hadn't met before. In July, we congratulated Zeta sister, Lucy Riffle, for receiving the Kentucky Association of School Resource Officers Meritorious Service Award for 2019.

At the KSO Fall Workshop, we had Zeta chapter members present sessions with the focus of Arts & Humanities. The sisters that presented were Lynn Mays, Lucy Riffle, Miranda Tieman along with her husband, Robbie, and Debbie Onkst's husband, Wayne. During our September meeting, our presenter was Roger Babik from Master Provisions, a non-profit organization that distributes resources to people in need and works until every physical and spiritual need is fulfilled. He inspired us to raise over \$300.00 of donations to Master Provisions.

During October, we had a wonderful NE Regional Meeting in Augusta. There were 34 ladies in attendance. Our speakers were Caroline Miller, Bracken Co. Historical Society, and Beth Pyle, our KSO state president. It was an enjoyable time being with sisters from our KY region. In November, we inducted a new sister, Gina Wulfbeck, to the Zeta Chapter, and our presenter was Lisa Sweasy, the curator/director of Vent Haven Museum. She expressed the history and growth of the museum and how we can get involved. Members also prepared Snow Day boxes for Lincoln Grant Scholar House. Parents can check out these boxes to keep children in the community entertained with games, puzzles, craft and coloring materials, snacks, etc. Debbie Morris delivered our ten Snow Day Kits to the Lincoln Grant Scholar House along with two cardboard boxes of donated school supplies.

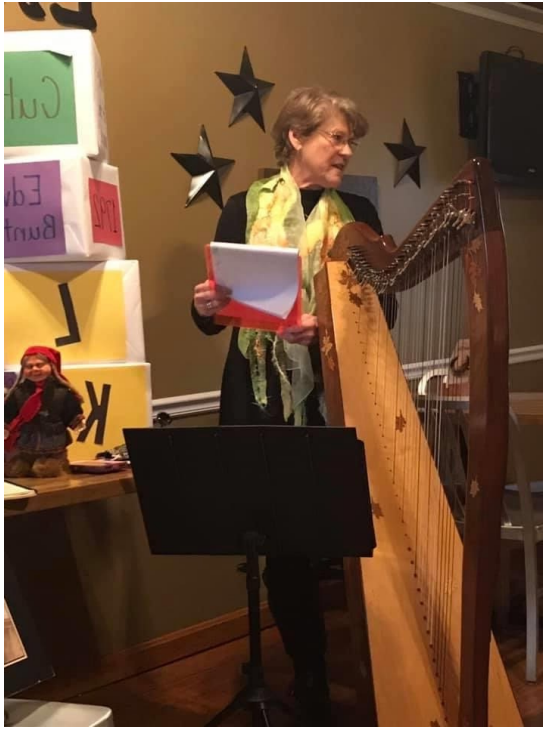
In February, Rose Mary and Margaret Hoffman and Joyce Hamberg presented for our Books, Bibs, and Be-



Chapter News

yond program at the Born Learning Academy at Dry Ridge EL School. It was a great way to share information with families about the importance of literacy. Due to COVID-19, our March and May meetings were cancelled, but our sisters are still hard at work helping their communities and teaching non-traditional instruction to their students. As a chapter, we look forward to being together again and continuing the mission of DKG.

MU CHAPTER



September 21, 2019 Mu Chapter's Melanie VanTassle and Carolyn Wheatley hosted Lucy Riffle, KSO second Vice President at First Christian Church. Lucy Riffle works at Kentucky Center for School Safety and she spoke on the importance and the changing role of school safety.

In lieu of a formal meeting, November 8, Mu members gathered at Impellizeri's to listen to local historian, Kenny Tabb speak about the history of that location. Nora Sweat arranged the event and Italian food was enjoyed by all!

Our January 18, 2020 meeting was a real treat, as member Debby Couch shared her experience from the chapter's mini grant at Back Home. She attended the

John C. Campbell School in North Carolina to enrich her knowledge of Norwegian music and the harp. It was a thoroughly enriching program.

Mu Chapter held its last meeting of the year March 14, at the new Extension Office in the beginning of the state shut down for Covid-19. Judy Meyer hosted our meeting and silent auction with Diane McCamish. We were hesitant to hold the meeting but practiced all social recommended requirements. Our time together has held special meaning as those memories are the ones that help us smile as we stay at home.



It has been difficult to watch the world go by with a new normal, but Mu chapter is working to keep our members informed and the officers are making personal contact with our members. Mental health and stability are crucial during this time and we must all work hard to protect it. DKG takes care of its members.

Chapter News

UPSILON CHAPTER

Upsilon had a busy first semester. We kicked off the 2019-2020 year in August with a yard sale, raising almost \$350 for our scholarship fund, and also surprised our active teachers with first day of school *Welcome Back* goodie bags.

September's meeting featured a presentation by Jennifer Wells, from The Point Arc which is a Northern Kentucky agency supporting individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families. Our service project was financial support of The Point Arc.



In October, we joined Epsilon, Psi, Zeta, and President Beth Pyle for the Northeastern Regional meeting at the historic Beehive Tavern (where the proprietors, George Clooney's parents, stopped by to say hello) in the charming river town of Augusta, KY.

Two new members, Andrea Hanson and Charlene Roberts, were inducted in November. Our speaker was local author, Ellen Everman (*Pink Dice* and *From Bellbottoms to Gucci*) whose reminiscences took many of us down memory lane. Our service project was a collection of socks, underwear, and other warm items to be donated to Dayton Elementary Schools Resource Center. We awarded a scholarship to NKU graduate student in Education and Expressive Writing Shelby Witt and delivered a school-supply "cake" to first-year teacher and chapter member, Morgan Gilvin.

In January, our own coupon-er extraordinaire, Sarah Staggs presented a program on couponing and recycling. Service project was a collection of cans of soup for a local church's "Souper Bowl" effort supporting Welcome House and other emergency shelters. In keeping with the theme, lunch was soup and salad.

Chapter News

Ongoing projects have been our T-shirt sales to support scholarships, and collections of recyclable plastic lids and used markers.

Since the cancellation of the March meeting, we have kept up with each other via the chapter Facebook page. We are going to meet in May though – via Zoom!

We miss seeing not only our own chapter members, but also our sisters throughout the state. However, meeting challenges is what we do – after all, we're teachers!

PHI CHAPTER

Our last meeting (January 25, 2020) was our best attended in eons and probably our most popular program each year: our chapter purchases and wraps books as presents for the students at the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD). The teachers of the students select the books, and we give the books to the students at their "I Love to Read" party, held each year around Valentine's Day. Some of our members attend the party each year and report back the joy the students exhibit at owning their own books.

We had planned a meeting for March 26, 2020 entitled "Taking Care of Planet Earth." Sarah Vahlkamp, one of our members, had prepared a power point and was going to lead an interactive discussion concerning environmental factors affecting our planet with possible solutions. It was to be held at the Mercer County Public Library with snacks and door prizes. In addition to our members the general public was invited including green groups from the high schools and churches. The Phi board decided to cancel the meeting about the same time the library board ended all public meetings. We hope to reschedule the program for the fall.

We have kept in touch with different members on an informal basis. Many posted individual high school graduation pictures on Facebook in empathy with the class of 2020. We hope to schedule a meeting in the summer when it is safe to meet to have elections and generally socialize.

ALPHA BETA CHAPTER

All will agree that this has been a year to remember for many reasons. Covid-19 has impacted everyone across the state, the country, and the world. Many of us have high school seniors and college seniors in our families who might not walk across a stage. But, we have seen their attitude, their resiliency, and the acceptance they have shown, many of whom will be teachers in classrooms who can share their experiences first-hand because they will be an integral part of history. And we extend our sincere appreciation to the current teachers and other staff in our chapter and schools across the nation, who have done an amazing job of guiding these students and transitioning from face-to-face teaching to distant learning.

Even though our chapter's monthly meetings came to an abrupt halt, we accomplished many of our goals

Chapter News

for the year. In order to support future teachers, we once again raised over \$1,069 at our yearly auction, money that supports scholarship dollars for future teachers. Our current officers have continued to support our organization and they keep us informed about chapter news, as well as DKG state and national news. We express our thanks to them for guiding us through a very unprecedented year: President Diana French; 1st Vice President Vicki Lete; 2nd Vice President Peggy Williams; Secretary Susan Quinlan; Treasurer Janet Chase; and Parliamentarian Ann Hafling. We also thank all our committee chairs for their continued work.

This has also been a year of sorrow for our chapter. After losing Maxine Stickler who passed away last program year, we lost five additional members during this current program year, several who dealt with cancer. Those members will be difficult to ever replace because of their hard work and dedication to education for thousands of students and the experience they brought to our chapter. Among them were classroom teachers, principals and counselors from the Jefferson County Public Schools. The dedication and love for DKG were evident in everyone we lost. We simply honor Peggy Williams, Marianne Humphries, Bonnie Abner, Nikki Schweinbeck, and Betsy Holton. Betsy was the first president of the Alpha Beta Chapter. All held offices in our chapter over the years and will be remembered with love and admiration.

Now we must look to the future where things might look very different. Recent circumstances have taught all of us the value and importance of human connections and the love and caring our sisters show for each other. As many of this year's plans for DKG events and education across the nation had to be put on hold, the Alpha Beta Chapter anticipates meeting together in August to install our new officers and plan for the upcoming year.

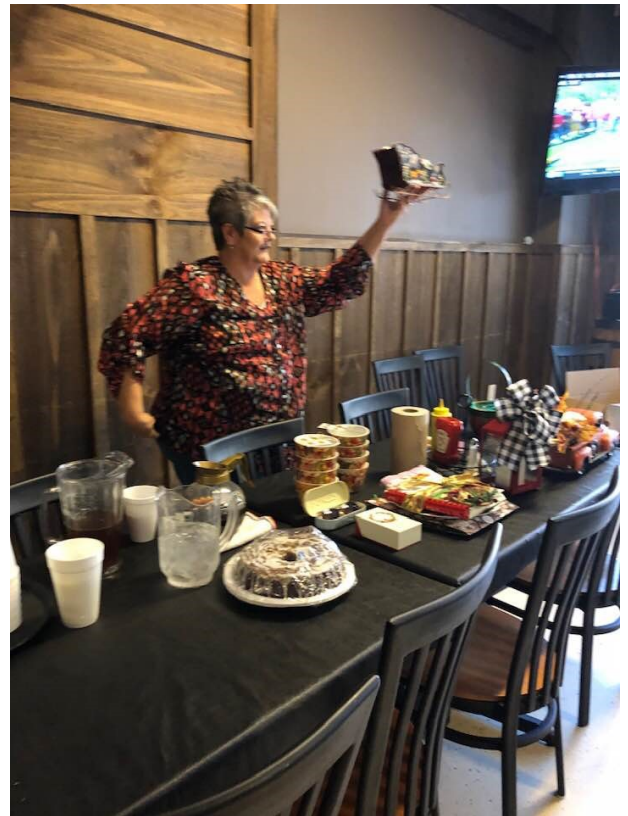
We extend our best to every student across our state, particularly those who are our high school seniors who have had their year cut short. And we send our good wishes to all DKG members across the state and the nation and wish them well.



Chapter News

ALPHA GAMMA CHAPTER

Alpha Gamma Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma met at the Big Blue Smokehouse in Hazard, Ky, on November 9, 2019, for their annual Christmas auction, which contributes to the chapter's scholarship fund. President Leslie Fields presided over the meeting, during which the Charlcia Taylor scholarship recipient, Hannah Ertel, was recognized for her goal of becoming a teacher by member, Brenda Spence. The animated and fun-filled auction was led by member, Juanita Collier-Spangler. She may add auctioneer to her resume! As always, WOMEN TEACHERS TO THE CALLING



Chapter News

ALPHA DELTA CHAPTER

Macey Biddle Receives Delta Kappa Gamma Scholarship

Submitted by Bev Morrison

Local Chapter Alpha Delta Scholarship of \$500 has been awarded to Macey Biddle, 2020 graduate of Meade County High School. The scholarship is awarded to an outstanding female going into the field of education. Macey will be attending ECTC as an elementary education major then transferring to WKU.



**Congratulations
Macey Biddle!**

Winner of the DKG, Alpha Delta chapter Scholarship of \$500 awarded to females going into the field of education.



Step Up for DKG

Biennium Pins

Cost \$5.00 per pin

- All proceeds go into Non-Dues Revenue – monies serve the members and benefit the Society at the State level
- Wear on red name badge/pin ribbon
- Chapters can award pins to members for special achievements; as a chapter meeting door prize; as an additional welcome for new inductees
- To purchase contact Beth Pyle (bethpyle@gmail.com)



Places to look for information concerning Kentucky State Organization.

Webpage: <https://kentuckyalphagammastate.weebly.com/>

Facebook: KY ALPHA GAMMA STATE (closed group-ask to join)