



# Pi Chapter Newsletter

Volume 15, Number 7      March, 2016

[http://xistatepichapter.com/public\\_html](http://xistatepichapter.com/public_html)



## Growing Possibilities 2015-2016

Pi Chapter Officers/Leaders	
President.....	Deckie Conley
1 <sup>st</sup> VP .....	Paula Campbell
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP .....	Gwen Payne
Recording Sec.....	Pat Aldridge
Corres. Sec.....	Rhonda Phillips
Parliamentarian.....	Ann Brown
Treasurer .....	Kathleen Benedict
Editor /Webmaster.....	Pat Stonecipher

Dear Pi Sisters,

The month of March heralds the beginning of spring. For several people who have been craving sunshine, March has been a long time coming. Spring Break allows time to kick back and soak in mild temperatures, finally. Then we can begin the countdown to summer.

I was delighted that our attendance in February was 41. I hope that is the beginning of a new trend. I know that it sounds good to say you are a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, but DKG is so much more than a Greek name for your resume. I have gotten to know some really marvelous, compassionate women whom I am so proud to call friends. However, it sometimes is challenging to get to know people if your only participation is attending meetings. Working on a committee or helping with a special project provides opportunities for more in-depth conversations. Volunteering to help with food is an easy way to make new friends.

Registration is now open for both Xi State Convention in June and the Nashville 2016 International Convention in July. The form for Xi State is in the February issue of *Xi State News* or on the state website. The International form is in the *International DKG News* or on the new DKG site (as of mid-January). To sign to the new site, use your 6-digit member ID # on the address label of DKG correspondence (omit the extra digit at the end). You can get the default password from me; it cannot be shared electronically. Remember the housing requests for Xi State are on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Registration is also open for new officer training in Knoxville April 9. The deadline is April 1. The president-elect and new treasurer are expected to attend and any other new officers can gain helpful information by attending. Pi Chapter will pay the registration fees.

Enjoy March, the season of renewal. Not only do we get Spring Break, but we also get to celebrate Easter! Join your fellow church-members at your choice house of worship.

Deckie

**Tuesday, March 1, 2016**  
**Clinton Elementary School**  
**5:00 p.m.**

### Inspiration

Mary Lee Stuart

### Hostesses

Heather Powell, Joan Vick, Shannon Smith, Patsy Thurmon, Cynthia Hawn, Judy Jones, Karen Long

### Program

Update member information for International

### Business

Vote on New Members  
Election of Officers  
Legislative Reports

### Remember to Bring

Change for Change Donations  
Box Tops for Education

*Wear your official DKG pin  
or pay fifty cents.*



## Pi Chapter Local News

### Joys and Concerns

**Happy March Birthdays to:** Kathy Hurst, April Perry, Deborah Keck (5<sup>th</sup>), Kathy McGrew (6<sup>th</sup>), Pat Stonecipher (17<sup>th</sup>) Teresa Wallace (25<sup>th</sup>), and Tammy Givens (31<sup>st</sup>)

Please continue to keep Heather Powell and her daughter, Mabel, in your prayers.

Please let us know if you or another sister has had a health related problem so that we may let the chapter members know.

Please let Pat Stonecipher ([patstonecipher@att.net](mailto:patstonecipher@att.net)) know of any joys or concerns to include in the

### Attention Members who are attending the Xi State Convention

If you are planning on attending the Xi State Convention, please bring your registration forms and checks to the March meeting. If you are interested in trying to get one of the five room suites. Please see Pat Aldridge at our March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

### Dates to Remember

#### March 1, 2016

Pi Chapter Meeting  
Vote on New Members  
Election of Officers  
Legislative Issues

#### April 5, 2016

Pi Chapter Meeting  
Initiation

#### May 3, 2016

Pi Chapter Meeting  
Founder's Day Banquet  
Installation of Officers

### MEMBERSHIP MINUTES

#### CALLING ALL ACTRESSES

Our own Caroline McGaha has written a wonderfully witty skit for our Founders Day Banquet. We are in need of eleven sisters willing to dress in the period dress of the time. There are two nonspeaking parts, one speaking part that is a little longer than the other parts, and eight very short speaking parts. These parts would need to be memorized which should pose no problem! Scripts will be handed out to volunteers at our March 1 meeting. Hope to see your name among the stars in this skit!

#### VOTING, ORIENTATION AND INITIATION

On March 1, we will vote on accepting the nominations of two prospective members. Nona Barton, a fifth grade teacher at Lake City Elementary School, is being sponsored by Karen Long and Kelly Raye Williams. Ginger Cook, an English teacher at Anderson County High School, is being sponsored by Caroline McGaha. Orientation for Nona and Ginger will take place in the library of Lake City Elementary School on March 15, at 4:30. On April 5, we will be initiating Nona Barton, Ginger Cook, Rhonda K. Phillips, and Carrie Stewart. Four new Pi sisters!!

## Pi Chapter Local News

### TREASURER'S "TIDBITS" \$\$\$\$\$ MARCH

In order to minimize the time I talk at meetings, I thought that I might include in the newsletter some thoughts that you would find of interest. Hope these help! Kathleen Benedict

- ✓ Thank you to all members for submitting dues! I am still waiting on two members to pay dues. Please remember to take care of this important detail.
- ✓ Pi Chapter currently has 59 active members, 2 reserve members and 1 chapter honorary member, for a grand total of 62.
- ✓ The Treasurer's Report will reflect changes made by motion at the January meeting! We now have a "Xi State Convention Fund for First Time Attendees" area on the report. This is exciting! We are in excellent financial shape. Expenditures are below budgeted amounts and all dues have been collected except for \$141.00.

### Progress Towards Recruitment Grant – Goal \$1,000 **February, 2016**

Here is the progress thus far towards our \$1,000 goal to provide to grants to seniors from CHS and ACHS who will major in education:

Beginning balance ..... 994.37 January, 2016

Happy Jar..... 5.03 February, 2016

TOTAL 2-29-2016.....1,000.00

**FUNDS Ready for Two 500.00 Recruitment Grants – Yeah!!!**

**\* Voted at January Pi Chapter Meeting: After recruitment grant goal of 1,000.00 is reached for the year, remaining Happy Jar proceeds will be directed towards sending a First time attendee from Pi Chapter to Xi State Convention, until goal is reached.**

**Once, First Time Attendee to Xi State Convention funds are met (275.00), then Happy Jar money will continue to build up funds in Recruitment Grant Fund for 2016-2017.**



### Call for Recipes!

Do you have any good recipes you would like to share? If so, please submit them to Pat Stonecipher ([patstonecipher@att.net](mailto:patstonecipher@att.net)) for inclusion in our next newsletter.

## Pi Chapter receives Visionary Award

Pi Chapter recently received notification of the Xi State Visionary Award. The Xi State Vision Foundation was established to help Xi State members with special educational projects. Chapters and members become visionaries by donating \$1000 to the Foundation. The money is invested to draw interest to add to the funds. Thousands have been donated since its inception. Accepting the award letter are Kathleen Benedict (Pi Chapter Treasurer, Kelly Ray Williams (Pi Chapter Past President), and Deckie Conley (Pi Chapter Current President).



## Schools for Africa Project “Change for Change” 2015-2016



**Pi Chapter donation balance for this year thus far is: 47.05. If you haven't been able to contribute change yet, please consider helping this worthy cause by chipping in a larger, one-time amount to help out!**

**I will need to send our donation in to Xi State immediately after the May Banquet. Please consider this worthy project!**

**With Support from The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and Others, the Schools for Africa Program Is...**

- Benefiting nearly 5 million children, with a special emphasis on girls, orphans, and children living in extreme poverty
- Building and rehabilitating almost 1,000 schools
- Training nearly 100,000 teachers
- Supplying notebooks, pens, desks, chairs, and other essential school materials
- Making sure schools have clean, safe drinking water and separate bathrooms for girls and boys
- Creating schools that offer a protective environment.

**The Schools for Africa Collection “Green Tub” is always at the Check-In table for meetings! Help Support** Pi Chapter's effort to donate your loose “change” in the hope that your donation of change will, when combined with many other like-minded DKG members, make a real CHANGE in Africa by providing schools so that learning may be provided in areas where it is not now available. For more information: <https://www.dkg.org/content/schools-africa>

## Pi Chapter Local News

### DKG, PI CHAPTER MEMBERS TRAVEL TO XI STATE LEGISLATIVE SYMPOSIUM

Thank you, Pi Chapter, for allowing us to represent you at the Xi State 2016 Legislative Symposium! Pi Chapter's Legislative Committee Chair, Kelly Williams, supplied us with significant facts and figures on current issues as well as delicious donut holes to "sweeten" the discussion with our legislators. Kathleen added some Spiced Tea to go with the donuts and so, we gladly journeyed to Nashville to lobby!

Delta Kappa Gamma members, Kathy Hurst and Kathleen Benedict, represented Pi Chapter at the annual XI State 2016 Legislative Symposium in Nashville, TN January 26 and 27. DKG, an international society for key women educators, through the state organization, Xi State, conducted the symposium with the theme, "Nurturing the Growth of Generations".

The 2016 Symposium coincided with several key bills and votes in the TN Legislature and allowed DKG members from across the state to meet, question, learn and inform state legislators on or about educational issues. Members participated in a panel discussion on Tuesday evening with legislators and other interested guests. Vouchers, Charter schools, curriculum, Achievement School District, testing, teacher evaluation and availability of broadband to all parts of TN remain topics of concern and interest that DKG members addressed. On Wednesday, DKG members lobbied on Capitol Hill offices in War Memorial Building and Legislative Plaza with local legislators to discuss these topics. Both legislators and DKG members presented impassioned, strong opinions with supporting evidence from many sources. The news-making and hotly debated issue Bill 1049 Voucher bill, under consideration for a vote during this time, sponsored by Rep. Bill Dunn (R-Knoxville), was ultimately pulled the following week by the sponsor and "put on the clerk's desk", ready to be addressed if or when needed.

Tuesday's Legislative Panel Discussion, held at the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel ballroom, included panelists: Senator Reginald Tate (D, Memphis), 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair of the Senate Education Committee, Representative Raumes Akbari (D, Memphis), member of the House Education Committee, Representative Harry Brooks (R, Knoxville), Senator Brian Kelsey (R, Germantown), member of the Senate Education Committee, and Donna Cotner, Executive Director TN Retired Teachers Association. DKG Legislative Committee Chair, Trish Stephenson, posed questions for panel members to discuss. Senator Tate, Senator Kelsey and Representative Brooks stately clear reasons for support of vouchers, one of the topics discussed, while Representative Akbari stated that she was "not sure how she would vote on vouchers because she was looking for a balance of solutions." Donna Cotner strongly expressed her anti-voucher sentiment by saying, "Public money, public schools; private money, private schools." Many DKG members applauded agreement to Cotner.

The Wednesday agenda found DKG members traveling to Legislative Plaza and the War Memorial Building to meet with local legislators. Mrs. Hurst and Mrs. Benedict discussed voucher concerns as well as teacher evaluation and TNREADY tests, and despite a busy legislative day, Senators Ken Yager (R, Kingston), Senator Dennis Powers (R, Jacksboro), and Representative John Ragan (R, Oak Ridge) spent time listening and debating these issues. All three legislators asked for help in finding a solution to help at-risk students in failing schools. Senator Yager clearly opposed vouchers, expressing public money should stay in public schools. Senator Powers clearly supported vouchers believing it was the best option to help failing students. Representative Ragan believed vouchers could work if the current bill could be amended to eliminate some wording. Senator Randy McNalley (R, Oak Ridge) was unavailable due to a Budget Committee Meeting.



**Kathleen Benedict; Xi State President, Dorrie Powell; Pi Chapter member, Kathy Hurst at the 2016 DKG Legislative Symposium in Nashville.**



## Pi Chapter Local News

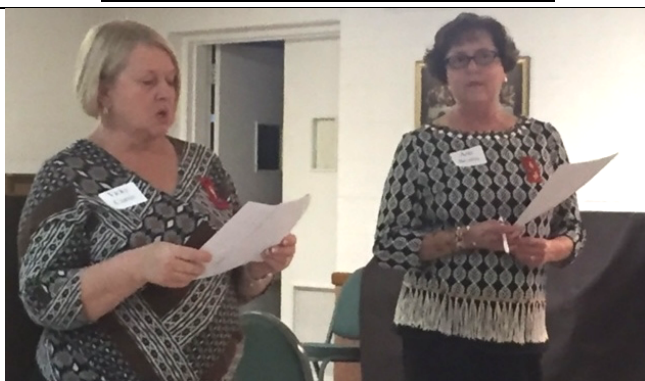
### Moments from January and February Meetings



**Ann Gann, Diabetes Education**



**Rhonda Phillips, Matters of the Heart**



**Vicky Curtis and Ann Brown, Rules Committee Report**

**Xi State News  
International News**

**Important Dates from Xi State**

**April 9, 2016: New Officer Training, Knoxville**

**June 2-4, 2016: Xi State Convention, Sewanee**

**July 5-9, 2016: International DKG Conference:  
Opryland Hotel Nashville, TN**

**Important Dates from International**

**July 14-18, 2015** Southeast Regional at  
Westin Hotel in Savannah, Georgia

**July 5-9, 2016** International at Gaylord  
Opryland Hotel in Nashville, TN



*Xi State...Growing Possibilities*

I am not a teacher, but an  
awakener.

*Robert Frost*

You laugh, you cry, and you work  
harder than you ever thought you  
could. Some days you're trying to  
change the world and some days  
you're just trying to make it through  
the day. Your wallet is empty, your  
heart is full, and your mind is  
packed with memories of kids who  
have changed your life. Just another  
day in the classroom.

*Veninspired.com and  
QuotesGram.com*