



Explore, Dream, and Discover 2018-2020

Thank goodness for the glorious sunshine last weekend! I know that winter weather and rain are not gone, but that taste of spring put a smile on my face and pep in my step.

I am humbled and honored by your vote to nominate me for Order of the Rose. Thank You. Pi Chapter members are amazing women, and even if I am not selected for this honor, I will always remember your support and thoughtfulness.

This month we focus on Legislative Issues. Thank you for responding to the email from our Legislative Committee concerning current legislative bills. Your responses will guide the conversations that Susan Jonely and Abbi Roehl will have with our legislative representatives during Xi State's Legislative Symposium, March 5th and 6th. At our meeting, Susan Fowler and Marsha Livingston will bring us a legislative update. This newsletter will introduce a section dedicated to educational issues and school news. Please help Pat by submitting information on either topic for the next issues.

Thank you to our dedicated Treasurer, Kathleen Benedict. She has worked to ensure that an accurate record of donations to the Vera Jo Henegar Scholarship was kept for both Pi Chapter and the Henegar family, and she has mailed acknowledgements to each donor. Kathleen is also prepared to collect the 2019-2020 dues starting at our March meeting. And she is collecting the **final** donations for Schools for Africa at the March meeting. And if all that is not enough, Kathleen will collect money for our banquet. I know the ladies on the Finance Committee will help at each meeting.

I am very excited to announce that Becky Sadowski, International First Vice President, will be our speaker at our Founders' Day Banquet, May 7th. Vera Jo and Becky were great friends, and Becky honored that friendship by attending the funeral service for Vera Jo. Make plans to join us in celebrating Pi Chapter and our Founders.

As we go into March Madness, here is my wish for you

Ann



*For each petal on the shamrock,
This brings a wish your way
Good health, good luck, and
Happiness*

Pi Chapter Officers/Leaders

President.....	Ann Gann
1 st VP	Rhonda Phillips
2 nd VP	Linda McCune
Recording Sec.....	Patsye Thurmon
Corres. Sec.....	Laura Phillips
Parliamentarian.....	Susan Fowler
Treasurer	Kathleen Benedict
Editor /Webmaster	Pat Stonecipher

Tuesday, March 5, 2019

Memorial United Methodist Church
5:00 p.m.

Inspiration

Denise Houdeschell

Hostesses

Deckie Conley (Coordinator), Reita Yadon, Judy Miller, Melanie Lamberson, Jenny Taylor, Kay Porter

Program

Legislative Update (Susan Fowler and Marsha Livingston)

Business

New Pictures for Yearbook

Remember to Bring



1. Change for Change Donations
2. Box Tops for Education
3. Your smile! (Pictures will be taken at the next two meetings.)



*Wear your DKG
pin with pride!*

Pi Chapter Local News



Our third newest sister who was inducted in December is **Jennifer (Jenny) Taylor**. Jennifer has taught social studies at Norris Middle School for seven years. She received her associate's degree from Pellissippi State and both her bachelor's and master's from the University of Tennessee. Jennifer credits her eighth grade history teacher, Suzi Schmidt, and her ninth grade world history teacher, Susan Fowler, for sparking her love of history and encouraging her to go into teaching. When she is not teaching, Jennifer loves to read and play with her two dogs; she has a nine-year-old Husky named Storm and a two-year-old Pomeranian named Adeline. She also enjoys spending time with her family and going to the movies with her husband. She also loves sharks and went swimming with hammerhead sharks when she was in high school. She now has a dream to go cage diving with Great Whites!

When asked to tell about herself and her duties as President of ACEA, **April Perry** submitted this very heart-felt explanation...

I would love to, but I'm afraid it is not a very exciting story. I have always been a member of the National Education Association because I felt that it was my duty and responsibility to be aware of the trends in education throughout America. To me, it is part of maintaining my professionalism. It doesn't hurt that my daddy was a union coal miner (and local President), and I saw first-hand how workers need to be protected. I love the fact that best practices, current law changes, and innovative strategies and tools of the trade to help students are always passed along in our monthly publications - on a national, state, and local level.

Many people don't know how local and state politics can have a huge impact on our students and schools. Unfortunately, many politicians don't know anything about education other than this: it is a line number in a county or state budget that looks very large. It is 56% of Anderson County's budget. If you break that 56% down, the biggest number is salary. In lawmaker's minds, they are thinking, "Well, heck, these teachers get all this money AND they get 3 months off a year AND they want a raise?" Keep in mind, all of these politicians have promised their constituents that they will not raise taxes. So, as professionals we are in a constant battle for our students and for ourselves. We all take our work home at night, we are all asked to do more with less money, and to do it with a pleasant attitude, a big smile on our faces, and a ready justification for our jobs. We are all asked to take on more responsibilities with no extra pay and, of course, it is for the students and isn't that why you went into education? Most of us get out of college or grad school with more student loans than what our highest paid year of experience is worth. In TN, we are evaluated on a system used in cattle breeding and asked to put together a growth plan if our "calves" don't grow (TVAAS). There is no other occupation or profession that has to consistently battle for respect, while always putting others first.

Ultimately, at the end of the day, my fellow association members are my tribe, my posse, my battle buddies, and my wingmen. We have each other's backs, and everyone in teaching should have that - it is sometimes a very lonely profession. We have to advocate for one another. Being president is a hard job, but an intrinsically rewarding one. I also have the good fortune of following in the footsteps of leaders who always did the right thing for Anderson County teachers. They have been pivotal in building a good rapport with our Board of Education, and we are blessed to have many active members within the Central Office staff. We are also fortunate to work closely with the retired teachers association in the county.

I would love for you to come to an association meeting to find out more about our long and short-term goals. All of our ACEA meetings are open to members and non-members and are on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 4:30 in the CMS library. Many of us go from there to the school board meetings across the street.

Pi Chapter Local News

Other Pi Sisters are involved in ACEA

Susan Fowler still serves as the secretary for ACEA after many years of actively serving in various capacities throughout her tenure as a teacher in ACSs. She was recently recognized by the Anderson County School Board for her many years of service to the school district in her various roles. (I provided the write-up that was used for that recognition, if you need it.)

Patsye Thurman was also an active member of ACEA before she retired, serving as president for at least one term and on the negotiating team for several years.

Vikki Burns is an at-large member of the ACEA Board, serving in the Administration role. She tries to attend as meetings as she can during the school year, but often, due to one of her duties as Evening School Coordinator, she does miss many of the meetings. Vikki served as Building Rep at CHS for over 25 years. Served as President of the Association for two years 1999-2001. Served on the ACEA Negotiating Team from 2001-2011 and as Chief Negotiator from 2006-2011, before collaborative conferencing became the new norm for discussions through the Race To The Top initiative by the State. She has also been on the Board for The Education Foundation for Anderson County and Clinton City Schools since 2016 and currently serve as secretary to that organization as well as chairperson for the Grant Committee

News from Clinton City Schools Board Meeting

Clinton City Schools received notification on February 1, 2019, that we had received a Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) Grant from the Tennessee State Department of Education in the amount of \$30,000. The purpose of the SSAE Program is to improve students' academic achievement by increasing the capacity of districts to provide students with access to a well-rounded education, improve conditions for student learning, and improve the use of technology to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy for all students.

The Tennessee Department of Education received 80 district applications requesting over two million dollars in funding. Only twenty of those applications were chosen to receive grants totaling approximately \$530,000. Clinton City Schools is thrilled to have received \$30,000.00 from the award total.

Clinton City Schools has formed an official partnership with Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) to assist in creating a 4-day STEM Camp for 3rd-5th grade students during the summers of 2019 and 20. ORAU Master Teachers will lead during the first summer as CCS teachers support and learn. The second-year CCS teachers will assume the lead role with the ongoing support of ORAU. The grant will be used to purchase supplies and materials such as 3D printers, electrical circuitry, robotics, and unplugged items. Students will participate in various STEM activities such as coding and engineering. Funds will also be used to stipend teachers to oversee the educational experiences. Students will be able to attend these enrichment activities at no cost. Director Kelly Johnson stated, "ORAU was a key partner in helping us secure the funding for this project. We look forward to building a strong partnership with them and utilizing their content expertise to develop and build quality STEM programs for our students. We want to keep students engaged after school and during school breaks. This grant will serve as the foundation needed to build strong camp experiences for students. The money will be available to us on February 15, and we intend to put it to good use immediately." The STEM Summer Camp is scheduled to be held at Clinton Elementary School May 28-31. Parent information will be sent home soon.

CCS teachers, along with ORAU Master Teachers, will plan and teach collaboratively. This collaboration will bring the finest, most innovative opportunities in STEM education for CCS students and teachers. We look forward to a long-standing relationship with ORAU. We are grateful for their commitment to this community and our students.

Submitted by Gwen Payne

Pi Chapter Local News



Vera Jo Higdon Henegar January 22, 2018

Pi Chapter and Xi State lost a Tennessee "Treasure" on January 22, 2019, when Vera Jo Henegar, 87, of Clinton, TN, a 47-year member of Pi Chapter, passed away. Vera served as a "Mother Hen" to many leaders in Xi State as well as nurturing members in her own Pi Chapter. She loved DKG and indeed epitomized a "key woman educator".

Vera began her formal education at Lincoln Memorial University who named her to the LMU Educators' Hall of Fame in 2017 and completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She completed her Master of Library Science degree from UTK in 1986 and pursued additional coursework. Her post-master's research centered on literature for children and young adults and looked at the portrayal of death and dying in these genres.

Throughout her 37-year career, Vera taught at all grade levels from second grade through high school, teaching in Tennessee, Georgia, Indiana, and the Oslo American School in Oslo, Norway as she traveled with her husband in the Army. She was very active in her church, Memorial United Methodist Church where she led Sunday School and managed the Memorial Scholarship Fund. Vera's leadership and encouragement to Pi Chapter and Xi State left not only an impressive legacy but a model for member involvement: 3 state offices (including Xi State President 2001-2003), 4 chapter offices, 3 special award, 6 international committees, 18 Xi State committees, 22 Pi Chapter committees, 13 international conventions, 16 regional conventions, 39 TN Xi State conventions, 59 workshops and legislative seminars (often as guest speaker), and 18 times as guest speaker at Pi Chapter meetings. Her love of DKG Society, its mission and purposes as well as her DKG sisters clearly showed in her life of service.

Vera was preceded in death by her husband of 66 years, Howard. She is survived by her children: Marilyn Giles (Smitty), Deborah Smith (Scott), and William Henegar, Jr. (Sheri); grandchildren Kelly Reed, Charlie Giles, Terry Smith, Jodie Desmond (Ryan), and Jordan Henegar, and great grandchildren Mason Reed, Tucker and Carly Desmond, brothers Jack Higdon (Liz), Jerry Higdon (Becky), Ron Higdon (Peggye), Sam Higdon (Pam) and Bill Cox (Syondra) and many more extended family. Vera's family remained her chief priority. Her family felt the love in all the time she took to care for family members as well as plan and host Sunday meals and reunions.

The family requested that donations be made to the Vera Jo Henegar Scholarship Fund, Pi Chapter, Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, K. D. Benedict/P. O. Box 355/Knoxville, TN 37901

*Submitted to Xi State Newsletter
by Kathleen Benedict*

Summary Vera Jo Henegar Scholarship Gifts2,795.00
Memorial donations to date 1-28 100.00; 2-5 1,305.00; 2-13 400.00; 2-19 940.00;
2-25 50.00 Total = 2,795.00 30 gifts, all received and acknowledged

Pi Chapter Local News

Joys and Concerns

Happy March Birthdays to: Kathy Hurst and April Perry (5th), Pat Stonecipher (17th), Teresa Wallace (25th), Ginger Cook and Denise Houdeschell (30th), Tammy Givens (31st)

Correction to February's Birthdays: Vikki Burns (19th)

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) know of any joys or concerns to include in the newsletter.

Announcements for Pi Chapter Members

- We are responsible for cleaning up and returning room to original setup (if tables and chairs are moved). Trash bags removed from cans to storage room.
- Notify Rachel Pemberton (rpemberton@acs.ac) if absence is from school activity such as teaching or attending school or other educational meeting.

Founders' Day Banquet **Mark your calendar now!**

Date: May 7, 2019

Meal: 5:30pm

Program: 6:00pm

Speaker: Becky Sadowski, International First Vice President

Founders' Day skit by Membership Committee

Meal: \$20

Herb chicken and either beef or pork

Herb roasted potatoes

Green beans and honey glazed carrots

Chef pasta salad (cold)

One large fruit tray and one large veggie tray

Salad (greens, seasonal fruit, and feta)

Dessert (assorted cookies, punch bowl cake and chocolate cake)

Catered by Hana's Inc. Oak Ridge, TN

Pi Chapter Local News

Schools for Africa Project "Change for Change" 2018-2019

Current total for the year thus far: = 89.20

Last collection for this year – March 5th meeting!

"In Memory of Vera!"



Focus on our Charter Members



To celebrate our 75th Anniversary, each month through May we will learn a little about our charter members. You will notice that we do not have information on all of them. If you are interested in genealogy and have access to records through a service such as Ancestry, it would be wonderful to find out about these sisters!

Irene Wallace (Nov. 14, 1904-June 3, 1990) Served as 1st Pi Chapter President 1943-45 and served again as President from 1966-68 and 1972-74. She began teaching in 1922 right out of high school with a teaching certificate at Lower Windrock School and served at 6 schools over her 48-year career. She earned her BS degree in elementary education from UT in 1942. She was the first woman president of ACEA in 1961-62. She taught her last 25 years at Lake City Elementary and worked in the Head Start program.

Frances McMaughton (may be McNaughton) No information available.

Committee News



Reminder: Linda McCune will be taking photos for next year's DKG yearbook beginning in March and April. Too many of our existing photos are in varying formats and orientations making them very difficult to use in our membership directory. Linda will only be taking photos before our meeting in February (commitment later that evening), but plans to be available both before and after meetings in March and April. Pictures will be head shots only from shoulders up. Smile!! :)

Submitted by Linda McCune

Note: If your committee has anything to report, please submit it to Pat Stonecipher (stonecipher@gmail.com)

Legislative Link

Please go to the following site and create a free account if you desire to read any of the other bills in their entirety you can enter the bill # at the following web site: <https://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/Apps/MyBills/MyBills/Search.aspx?Type=Results&SType=Subject&Subject=1520&Type=Results&SType=Subject&Subject=1520>

You can also search for all bills regarding education by entering "education" in the search bar. There are several pages of them so those of interest to you and we will add them to the list.

Thanks again for any input you share.

Susan Jonely

Pi Chapter Local News

Legislative Committee Update

The deadline for filing Bills for the 2019 legislative session was Friday 2.8.19 and as of that date no Bill regarding school vouchers or Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) had been filed. It is my understanding that there are ways to go around this deadline so I expect we will still see this issue debated again this year.

As we approach the DKG Legislative Seminar in March please share your pros and cons regarding ESA's as well as the other issues listed below. We want to express the views of all to the legislators we meet. We have been cautioned to be understanding, non-extreme, friendly, reasonable, cooperative, realistic, accurate, factual, and evaluative in presenting our views. Below are some Bills which were introduced. Please let me know if you agree (list pros), disagree (list cons), see any pitfalls to address before passing or not passing. Review the final Teacher Bill of Rights. This is by no means an exhaustive list so if you found something else you would like addressed please respond to all. Thanks for any and all input.

Submitted by: Susan Jonely

- 1) HB0253; SB0760 Requires appropriate tiered interventions for students with characteristics of dyslexia and requires LEA's to provide at least one teacher per school who has at least 6 hours of training in teaching students with characteristics of dyslexia through a tiered dyslexia-specific intervention.
- 2) HB 0802; SB0670 requires the development and adoption of two alternative graduation pathways for public high school students, one designated college preparatory track and the other designated the technology track.
- 3) HB1143; SB 1397 Limits payroll deductions and the scope of the collaborative process regarding payroll deductions specifically payroll deductions for payment of dues to professional organizations would not be allowed.
- 4) HB0946; SB0802 Requires LEA's to report how funds designated by the state for increases in instructional wages and salaries were used.
- 5) HB1394; SB1267 Requires state dept. of ed. provide LEA's with access to their students' TCAP and end-of-course assessment items and students' answers within 60 days following administration of assessments and LEA's must provide same information to teachers within 90 days following the assessment.
- 6) HB1105; SB1333 Increases monetary compensation of at least \$1,000 for each full-time and part-time state employee NOT including employees of local governments, or LEA's.
- 7) HJR0149 Urges the Dept of Ed to address the negative impacts of recent legislation on LEA's
- 8) HB0788; SB1251 transfers some duties from DoE to LEA's including development of a sexual violence awareness curriculum appropriate for grades 7-8 and 9-12.
- 9) HB0866; SB0063 expands career and technical education programs to middle school grade requiring comprehensive career and technical training beginning in grade 6.
- 10) HB0968; SB0296 Truth In Teacher Pay Act requires salary schedules approved by the state board of education to reflect increases to the instructional salaries and wages component of the BEP in general appropriations act.
- 11) HB0402; SB0064 Requires all K-12 teachers, principals and assistant principals to participate in adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) training annually.

Pi Chapter Local News

Legislative News (continued)

12) HB1065; SB0262 Imposes a maximum amount of time per year for standardized testing based on grade level applying 1 hour per year from grade 3-8 i.e. grade 3 (3hours), grade 4 (4hours) etc. grade 8-12 (8 hours) This excludes assessments for post-secondary readiness like ACT and assessments required by local LEA.

13) HB0405; SB0170 Requires performance of an adverse childhood experiences assessment before an LEA can suspend, expel, require in-school suspension, or attendance in an alternative school program

14) SB0347 Requires the commission to create a baccalaureate degree for veterans who retire with 20 years of service and requires each state institution of higher education that offers a baccalaureate degree to award the degree and the veteran is not required to earn a credit in American History.

15) HB0949; SB0805 Enacts the Governor's Investment in Vocational Education Act; makes changes to the dual enrollment grant program; specifies that financial assistance received for all dual enrollment courses attempted after the 4th dual enrollment course reduces any subsequent award for the Tennessee Hope Scholarship.

16) HJR0132 Supports a teacher's bill of rights (I have included this bill for your comments as it will affect all.

(1) TEM vs. TEAM for teacher evaluations: Eliminate Tripod and Professionalism.

(2) Reduce testing for students by eliminating standardized testing for grades K-12 and SPED students; make district-mandated benchmark testing age appropriate; and reduce excessive testing time to allow for more instructional time.

(3) Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten portfolios: A rubric should be designed that aligns with age-appropriate standards and expectations. Final rubrics should be provided to educators no later than July to ensure that all educational professionals have ample time to review the rubric and create a plan of implementation that would best suit the needs of individual students.

(4) Response to Intervention (RTI) concerns: Educators should be provided with the appropriate tools and resources in order to successfully implement RTI based on state guidelines and expectations. RTI programs should be designed based on district- and school-level needs; it should not be a statewide, one-size-fits-all model. RTI tracking, paperwork, and implementation should not impede daily classroom instruction. HJR0132 003321 -2-

(5) (6) Amend selection date for teacher achievement scores: Teachers should be given the option to select an achievement measure once test scores have been received.

(7) Reduce teacher penalties for poor standardized test scores: Until the state can produce a fair (unbiased), reliable, and consistent testing measure with clear expectations, teacher evaluation scores should not be negatively impacted by standardized testing data. Educators in non-tested grades should not be forced to use school scores in their individual evaluations.

(8) Stockpile days: Days should be utilized in a manner to benefit students and educators.

Pi Chapter Local News

International Convention Votes to Align Dues to Fiscal Year - 2019-2020 Dues to Be Paid Before June 30, 2019

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International voted at the International Convention in Austin, Texas, this past summer to amend *the Constitution and International Standards* regarding member dues. The approved amendment requires each chapter's fiscal year to begin on July 1 of each calendar year and end on June 30 of the next calendar year. **So, by 2019, member dues will align with the fiscal year, with a payment deadline of June 30, 2019. Throughout DKG Society Membership, from now until June 30, 2019, members will pay dues (in our case, Pi Chapter, 85.00) by June 30, 2019.**

This new rule gives all DKG members 4-5 months to pay for 2019-2020 dues. Yes, I will work with each member in any way needed! You can make four dues payments of 21.25 each; Feb., Mar., Apr., and May to total 85.00. Or three payments of 28.33 each - three months of your choosing to total 85.00. Or if you want to make other kinds of payments, 40.00 + 45.00 = 85.00 two times. Fine. As always, I will do it. On the bright side, you will not owe dues again until March, 2020. I understand that it is often necessary to make budget or financial adjustments for the betterment of the organization. This is a little inconvenient, but, hey, we are DKG! We can do it!!

Thanks in advance for your cooperation. Your Treasurer, Kathleen Benedict 865-599-1646

GEAR UP Anderson County thanks Pi Chapter for their support and Pi Chapter member Diane Alsop for her time volunteering to call senior parents regarding the need to complete FAFSAs. With Mrs. Alsop's help, Clinton High School finished the FAFSA season with a 95% completion rate and Anderson County High finished with a 93% completion rate. Thank you Pi Chapter for helping our students reach higher!

Submitted Angela "Hoppy" Merryman

Gear Up TN Anderson County

Pi Chapter Local News

Moments from our February Meeting



Xi State News International News

Dates to Remember

March 5 & 6, 2019 – Xi State Legislative Seminar (Maxwell House Millennium Hotel)

March 15-16, 2019 – Advanced Leadership Seminar

May 20 – June 1, 2019 – Xi State Convention

June 27-29, 2019 – International Conference: Arts & Humanities, Asheville, NC

2019 Xi State Legislative Symposium March 5-6

With the Legislative Symposium in Nashville less than a week away, Legislation Committee Chair Joan Howell is pleased to announce the Tuesday night panel participants who will answer questions about this session's proposed bills at the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel beginning at 7:00.

Senator Jon Lundberg

Representative Terri Lynn Weaver

Representative John J. DeBerry, Jr.

Representative Mark White

Representative Harold Love, Jr.

Representative John Ragan

Donna Cotner, Executive Director,
TN Retired Teachers' Association, Beta Rho

We are also delighted that our new Commissioner of Education Dr. Penny Schwinn will be our keynote speaker at the Cordell Hull Building on Wednesday morning beginning at 8:15. This promises to be another exciting and informative event with our legislators and the Commissioner.

