

# The Key Update

Newsletter of Delta Chi Chapter, Wilkes County, NC  
 Region IX of The North Carolina State Organization

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 December, 2020

## Delta Chi Loses Two Long-Time Members

*Delta Chi is mourning the loss of a charter member and a 50-year member within two short weeks. Dr. Essie Hayes, who joined DKG in 1970, passed away November 22. Etta Idol, a charter member who joined in 1961, passed away December 7. Delta Chi will honor both ladies in a Ceremony of Remembrance at our March 2021 meeting.*

### Dr. Essie Norris Hayes



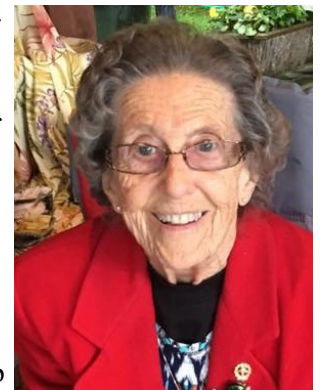
Dr. Essie Hayes was honored in absentia at our September 2020 Delta Chi meeting for her 50-year membership in DKG. Before health issues kept her from attending meetings, Essie came regularly and was a big supporter of chapter projects and activities. Essie faithfully served on committees, including Finance and Research, and

served as hostess for numerous meetings throughout her membership.

Essie taught in the Wilkes County Schools before joining the faculty of Wilkes Community College. She was an educator for over 40 years and later served on the Wilkes County Board of Education where she wholeheartedly led the successful 1990s campaign for Wilkes County's middle schools.

Dr. Essie Hayes was three weeks past her 93rd birthday when she passed away.

### Etta Lee Triplett Idol



Etta Idol was one of nine members to charter Beta Eta Chapter, which later became Delta Chi. Etta served as president of Beta Eta during the 1980-1982 biennium.

Etta retained her active membership status even after she moved to Pfafftown, attending meetings last year with the help of her daughter Sharon. She enjoyed the fellowship and members enjoyed her bright smiles and participation in projects and activities.

Etta was the first Wilkes County Teacher of the Year and she, along with her husband John Idol, was elected to the Wilkes County Hall of Fame Class 2020 to honor their longstanding service as outstanding educators. She taught high school science for 35 years and inspired many of her students to become science teachers as well.

Etta Lee Idol celebrated her 98th birthday in June.

## Contributions Still Needed for Winter Nichols for Kids Project

*Contribute: see page 3 for items needed for Nichols for Kids and our BT project*



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## Red Roses of Congratulations to:

**Lori Holguin** on achieving National Board Certification! Lori certified as English as New Language/Early and Middle Childhood in the Specialty Area Path 1 Middle Childhood Generalist. Lori was one of only two Wilkes County teachers to achieve initial certification in the cycle announced in December.

*(If you renewed this cycle, please let us know so we can include you in the next issue! Or if you have any news, please share so we can celebrate with you!)*



## Member News

**Elizabeth Thornton:** I am so excited that my sister and her husband sold their home in CA on a whim and bought a house in Mooresville (sight unseen except for pictures!). It will be so nice to have family, in addition to my two daughters, only an hour away. It has been years since we have lived close enough to see each other fairly often. We had a great time with them at Thanksgiving and are planning to get together again at Christmas for a family celebration.

**Paula Farmer:** Who would have ever guessed all the changes we were in store for while we were celebrating the holidays and ringing in the year 2020? Regardless of the struggles, I have much to be thankful for! My family has stayed well during the pandemic, and we even gained a new niece this summer. Gabby had her tonsils out in September and we are finally enjoying a season without recurring throat issues. Emily, a Supply Chain Analyst with Lowes, works from home and has been told they won't return to the office before July. Grayson moved out this year and into my parent's old home. (Yes, we make him pay rent... he is a big boy, after all.) Geoff has been able to work from his office in the Court House for the most part and is thankful he isn't stuck at home with our lousy internet service. I began making custom masks in the spring, and after giving away everything until I ran out of fabric on hand, began selling them. I have inadvertently established quite the custom mask business (and fabric addiction). While surprised at the level of interest and support, I am thankful for the additional income, which has allowed me the opportunity to help others. Our students are back full-time and I love having them in the building! Join me in hoping for safety, warmth, food, and good health for our students (and staff). Wishing each of you a happy holiday and a healthy New Year!



### A Note of Thanks

Sharon Oxford sends thanks to all who sent cards and notes to her mother, Etta Idol, while she was living at Vienna Village. Sharon says she even received several on the day she passed away and Sharon read every one of them to her.

### Mark the Dates

- Jan. 1, 2021 Due date for donations to Delta Dollar\$
- Jan. 3, DKGIEF project applications due
- Jan. 25 ASK Time for chapter presidents
- Jan. 15-Feb. 15 Arts & Humanities Gallery submission window open
- Feb. 1 Chapter President Annual Report and Chapter Necrology Annual Report due
- Feb. 1 Nominations for Founders Award due
- Feb. 1 Lucile Cornetet Individual PD Awards applications due
- Feb. 1 Scholarship applications due for NC DKG & DKG International
- Feb. 15 Arts & Humanities Gallery submissions due
- Feb. 22 ASK Time for chapter presidents
- Mar. 1 Chapter Achievement Awards, Golden Key Award, and Rising Star Award nominations due
- Mar. 1 Deadline to submit requirements for the Newsletter Excellence, Website Excellence and/or Communications Excellence Awards
- Mar. 1 *Bulletin: Journal* submissions due
- Mar. 8 Delta Chi Chapter meeting

### BT Project Update

Thank you to all who contributed full-size boxes of tissues and packs of gum for our Winter Quarter Beginning Teacher Project. Our Spring drive will be for copy paper. Remember this is a way to participate without attending meetings so donate today!





## Nichols for Kids Project Donations Still Needed

Our winter project of collecting leggings for students in need continues. We especially need leggings for girls and jogging pants for boys in middle and high school sizes. Drop your donations off in the box in the lobby of Wilkes County Schools Central Services and sign the sheet located near the box.

Angel Bell, who spoke at our November meeting on the need for support for students, is pictured above (right) with April Marr, Student Services Director (left), as they sort through some of our donations before sharing with school social workers for distribution to students.

## Next Delta Chi Meeting is Monday, March 8, 2021

Wilkes County Schools Board Room  
 4:00 p.m. Social time  
 4:30 p.m. Business meeting to begin

(Watch for an announcement closer to March to know if this will be a Zoom-only meeting.)



Check out the updated Delta Chi website:

<https://deltachinc.weebly.com/>

Thanks for Belinda Moreno, webmaster, and Tamarah Cornette, co-president, for the updates!



Remember to send your suggestions for the Strategic Plan to [Elizabeth Thornton](#) before our March meeting.

Past-president Andrea Byers (right) recognized Brandy Webb (left) with a BEE-ginning Teacher Certificate during the November meeting. Brandy teaches second grade at North Wilkesboro Elementary School where Andrea is the instructional specialist. Andrea described Brandy as a team player, dedicated and compassionate, with a can-do attitude, thriving in the remote education model.

Congratulations, Brandy, and thanks, Andrea, for nominating her!



*Due January 31, 2021*

## New Round of Grants Offered

For the first time, the NC DKG Educational Foundation is offering a Spring cycle of grants! This new round is in addition to the grant opportunities due each year in September. The deadline for these new grants is January 31, 2021. Grants to be awarded include Continuing Education, Literacy/Learning Project, Groves-Little Early Career Educator, McCall Gifted Education or Fine Arts, Margaret Church Endowment, and Richards Endowment. Find the applications and more details at <https://www.ncdkgef.org/grants.html> (scroll down to Guidelines for All Grants).

It's not too late to apply for a grant from International either but those applications are due **January 3** so don't delay!

Learn more at:  
[https://www.dkg.org/DKGMember/DKGIEF/Funds/Educational Projects/DKGIEF Educational Projects.aspx](https://www.dkg.org/DKGMember/DKGIEF/Funds/Educational%20Projects/DKGIEF%20Educational%20Projects.aspx)

**Grants and scholarship opportunities are benefits of being a DKG member!**  
**APPLY TODAY!**

## THE PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Happy December Delta Chi,



It is our hope that December finds each of you in good health. This Christmas seems anything but normal. Hopefully singing carols, decorating, shopping (either on-line or in stores), baking and worshipping virtually or in-person are helping keep your spirits bright.

Since we were together, our chapter has experienced the loss of two members, Etta Idol, a charter member and Dr. Essie Hayes, a 50 year member. If you never had the opportunity to meet these ladies we can assure you they exemplified the essence of our Society- *Leading Women Educators, Impacting Education Worldwide*. They were exemplary Delta Chi members and will be greatly missed. Also since our last meeting, we have had success with the BT Kleenex and gum drive. Thank you to everyone who has taken these items to Central Services. We have plenty for the next distribution. Along with the BT collection, we have been supporting Nichols for Kids. Angel Bell, WCS Families in Transition Liaison, has kept us informed regarding the leggings and jogging pants collections. Many of the school social workers have already distributed what has been donated. This shows just how great the need is within our schools. If you have not had the opportunity to support this particular effort, it is not too late! The greatest need is for girls and boys, middle school and high school age, leggings and jogging pants.

As we wind down 2020 and eagerly count the days to 2021, we want to thank you for the opportunity to serve Delta Chi. Many of you have held this role since we were chartered in 1966, so you know there's a lot that goes on behind the scene. With that said, we can assure you it is worth every minute because we know our efforts support our causes, committee chairs, the membership and DKG as a whole. Our efforts carry on the DKG legacy not only of Etta and Essie, but all those who have gone before us. It's important work! It's essential work!

To those of you that have donated or distributed items, attended virtually or in-person, worked on newsletters or webpage, sent cards or emails, presented at a meeting, met with a committee, nominated a Bee-ginning Teacher, prepared refreshments, or participated in a variety of other ways....THANK YOU!! If you have been unable to participate *for whatever reason*, we encourage you to start fresh and recommit in 2021. It is our hope we thrive for another 60 years. Merry Christmas and happy New Year!! May the upcoming holidays be filled with EVERYTHING you cherish most.

In Sisterhood,  
*Elizabeth and Tamarah*



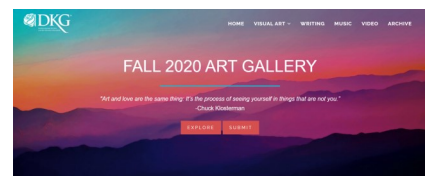
## ELP TIP—Teachers Involved in Policy

The NC DKG Educational Law and Policy Committee offers this **TIP** for being involved: **Connect with newly-elected legislators as soon as possible.**

The General Assembly swearing-in date is January 1 and their first day of work is January 13, 2021. Newly-elected legislators are frequently looking to craft their legislative agenda, offering an excellent opportunity for you to introduce yourself and Delta Kappa Gamma's priorities. Invite newly elected officials to your meetings (via Zoom) or visit them in their district or their office as they are getting settled.

## DKG Art Gallery Has New Look

Check out the new look to the DKG Art Gallery at <http://dkggallery.dkg.org/dkggallery/>. The Fall 2020 collection includes many works from NC DKG members. Browse by clicking the red Explore button or going directly to the topic by the menu bar across the top. The submission window opens January 15 for the next gallery. We have some talented Delta Chi members—submit something and let's see your work in the Gallery!



For comments or questions regarding *The Key Update*, please contact Editor [Susan Kuenzel](#) or one of the co-presidents: [Tamarah Cornette](#), [Elizabeth Thornton](#)