

The Key Update

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

Vol. 17, No. 3
 February, 2017

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK ...



Hello, Delta Chi Sisters!

Our final three meetings of the year will be upon us before we know it, and MerleFest and Eta State Convention are quickly approaching.

The Hope Harbor Home is the 2017 State Convention Project for this year. (Read more about it on page 2.) We will have boxes to collect your generous donations to support women and children in this shelter.

We have some exciting programs planned for this spring, including a visit from our Regional Director Birgitta McGalliard and a Guardian ad Litem presentation in March, a paint party in April, and a 50th birthday party for our chapter in May.

See you on March 13, at 4:30 pm at our next chapter meeting in the Board Room.

Blessings,
 Susan

Dr. Susan C. Blackburn
blackbusu@wilkes.k12.nc.us

Two Members Featured in International *Bulletin*

The most recent *DKG Journal: Bulletin* includes two Delta Chi members! Dr. Donna Cotton has an article published and Susan Kuenzel shares National Board information through an interview with *Bulletin* Editor Dr. Judith Merz.

Donna's article, titled "Teachers' Use of Formative Assessment," highlights some of the research Donna did as part of her doctoral dissertation. The subjects involved were 4th and 5th grade teachers and students in Wilkes County Schools during the 2012-2013 school year.

The theme of the publication is "Systems to Address Quality Teaching" and each issue a member of the editorial board interviews a DKG member about something related to the theme. Susan was selected because of her National Board work on the state and local levels and her experiences as a trainer during the scoring process.

Members must be logged in to the DKG website (dkg.org) to read the articles. Click on Resources —> Publications —> then click on the *Bulletin—Journal* icon on the left (same as the graphic here). Scroll down to find the two articles.

Congratulations, Donna and Susan!



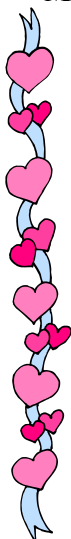
Spring Meetings Outlined

Mark your calendar for our spring meetings: March 13, April 24, May 15.

Eta State NC Region IX Director Birgitta McGalliard will be with us in March. Many of you will remember Birgitta from her program a couple years ago about the book she wrote about her father and family during World War II. She is back to share her sequel and bring greetings from Eta State. We will also have a Guardian ad Litem presentation. Many teachers and educators find this a rewarding volunteer opportunity after retirement.

In April, we'll have a fun and relaxing time painting with Connie's Creations. Connie Ledford, an art teacher at Millers Creek Elementary, will be our guide as we explore our creativity. Paint parties are popular activities these days! There will be a small fee for the paint and canvases, but a portion of the proceeds will be donated back to our chapter. You'll be surprised to discover the artist inside you!

Finally in May we are planning a 50th celebration for our chapter. More details to come!



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Hope Harbor is Convention Project

Hope Harbor Home is the Eta State convention project this year. Hope Harbor Home is Brunswick County's only program offering around-the-clock response to victims of domestic violence and their children. Services include a fully staffed safe shelter and crisis hotline, support groups, victim advocacy, meals, clothing, and transportation. Hope Harbor also employs a Community Educator who conducts presentations in schools on issues such as bullying, dating violence, sexual harassment, self-esteem, and other topics aimed at promoting nonviolence among students and throughout the community. They have provided a variety of items on their wish list, shared on the convention webpage at http://www.ncdkg.org/uploads/8/0/8/5/80859646/hope_harbor_home_info_and_wish_list.pdf.



Individual Professional Development Funds Available Through International Foundation

Applications for the Lucile Cornet Award for Professional Development—Individual will be due May 1, 2017. This money can be used for conferences, seminars, national certifications (but not renewals) or any non-degree seeking programs. As of February 2016 over \$544,385 has been granted as Individual Professional Development Awards. Learn more on the [DKG Educational Foundation website](#).



Educational Foundation Planning Raffle

The NC DKG Educational Foundation will again be holding a raffle at the convention to raise funds for more grants and to offer lucky winners awesome prizes. Returning raffle items include the NASCAR package, weekends at a mountain home and a beach retreat, and Biltmore tickets. Among the new items this year will be a winery package, a piece of Ben Owen III pottery and a handmade quilt donated by an Eta State member.

All members are invited to the Second Annual Meeting of the Educational Foundation at the convention. Recent grant winners, **including Delta Chi's Andrea Byers**, will share their projects and Foundation leaders will share how all members can support the capital campaign being launched by the Foundation.



MerleFest Schedule Ready for Sign-Ups

Sharon Guenther reports that the schedule for working at MerleFest is ready and those who already know when they would like to work should email her at spguenther@embarqmail.com to get their names on the list early. It is a big year and lots of folks want to be there this year. She will also have the sign up sheet at the March meeting, so hopefully we can fill all the slots early.

April 27-30, 2017



Many Delta Chi thanks to Tamarah Cornette for agreeing to take over the management of the parking lot project for us after this year. She will be working with Sharon during preparations and the festival to learn.

Many Delta Chi thanks to Sharon, too, for all her years of faithful service in leading our MerleFest project. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and pays for our scholarship to Communities in Schools for a New Century Scholar.

Our Sympathies To...

Sharon Guenther on the passing of her father in December, 2016.



Congratulations To...

Judy Nofrey on the birth of her first great-grandchild January 2. Eli Jamison weighed 9 lbs. 12 oz. "He is beautiful."



Member News

Rachel Hughes: We had over 100 students present their Graduation Projects at West High, and the students did a wonderful job. During the snow, I got out the church cookbook, researched Pinterest for help, and relied on advice from my mother to learn to cook some new foods I've never tried. Big step for me!

Kaye Lamb: I had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends. My sister and her husband came to Asheville and we went to the Biltmore House which is always lovely at Christmastime. Most recently, I went to Kiawah Island, SC, for several days with Pat Mazza, Teresa Foster and Stephanie Williams. We had an awesome time....shopping, eating at a different restaurant every meal and exploring Charleston.

Linda Little has been busy hosting guests at their new home and enjoying water aerobics at the Y. She's beginning swim lessons and loving to be back in Wilkesboro.

Martha Glass: I did nothing during Christmas but enjoy the family and eat. That's what you do when you get old. Also I experienced the loss of the one college friend that had remained a close friend over the years. It was a 71 year close friendship.

Hannah Peacock: The Christmas break was wonderful spending time with our friends and family. We are really excited about the little boy we are expecting at the end of May! Piper can't wait to be a big sister!

Jane Joines: Max and I had a wonderful Christmas with all the family (especially with the 5 grandchildren!) On January 14 the Sturdivant family celebrated my mother Cynthia Sturdivant's 90th birthday. She is the rock and the blessing of our family!

Mary Belle Greene and **Coleen Hayes** both send their best regards to Delta Chi. They appreciate the correspondence, visits, thoughts and prayers from all of us.

Donna Cotton: I spent Christmas in Florida with my parents, sister and brothers. The weather was beautiful (high 70's every day) and my brother and I walked 4 miles on the beach every morning! *Other exciting news*, I will be teaching an undergrad class at ASU this spring! I am very excited about this opportunity to hopefully get my foot in the door at my alma mater!

Judy Nofrey: The end of last year was a busy time for me. I traveled, by RV, 11000 miles across the northern part of our country and into Canada. We live in a beautiful country full of history. It was a chance of a lifetime. The second part of the trip is in the near future to do the southern part. I highly recommend it to all.

Etta Idol: Sharon sent this report on behalf of Granda Idol. She had a fabulous Thanksgiving in Tupelo with her grandsons family. Sadly right after that while enjoying Atlanta with more family, she broke her hip and has had a replacement. After surgery and rehabilitation she is walking again with minimum help. Her determination and spirit are admirable. She is able to

go out for meals and short rides. She is enjoying lots of Netflix series while healing and in the afternoons watches old westerns. She enjoys college sports.

Pat Mazza: I had an awesome time for five days on Kiawah Island with great friends; Kaye Lamb, Teresa Foster and Stephanie Williams. The Dylann Roof sentencing phase was taking place in Charleston while we were there. This was my first time seeing Homeland Security patrolling. It was a little disconcerting, but I am glad they exist. We also had lunch with my college roommate, Teresa Hall West. I had not seen her in more than 25 years.

Sharon Guenther: Thanks for the sympathy cards and phone calls from so many of you regarding the death of my father on December 19. He had just celebrated his 89th birthday in November and we had had a great time and lots of good memories at that gathering. My mom is doing pretty well, but needless to say, the holidays were very different for us this year. My grandchildren thoroughly enjoyed their Christmas this year and kept our spirits up.

Amber Bryant: I enjoyed spending quality time with my family over the holidays. One of our favorite experiences this Christmas was riding the Polar Express in Bryson City. We also enjoyed the snow. My daughter loved sledding, making snow angels, and building a snowman. We are hoping for one more good snow.

Andrea Byers: My family and I went to Disney World for New Years. It was an early celebration for my oldest, Isabelle's 10th birthday.

Norma Jean Burnette and John walk several times a week and are staying busy with Seniors on Stage.

Ramona Hemric: The best part of retirement has been finding the new me. I love taking my dogs to the creek, running, spending time in coastal towns, painting and antique hunting with family and friends. I ran my first race (8.2 miles) at Mackinac Island, MI with my husband and brother-in-law in September. I feel very blessed to have time to read my Bible and drink coffee as long as I need to every morning.

Tamarah Cornette: The past few months have been extremely busy. For the first time in my 30 year career, I worked to coordinate the NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) for Wilkesboro Elementary. Even though it was an additional assessment, I found the process exciting since the information will be used to inform the public about the academic achievement of 4th graders.

If you know of an illness or death or a celebration of a member, please share it with us. Kaye Lamb (kavelamb77@yahoo.com) is sending cards so let her or President Susan know when someone needs remembering!



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

To Be Voted On at Convention

Proposed Amendments Shared

The 2015-2017 Eta State Rules Committee has prepared proposed bylaws and standing rules amendments for each member to study prior to the state convention. Please read carefully and consider the implications of the proposed changes.

Chapters are encouraged to discuss the proposals and give input to chapter presidents. As members of the state Executive Board, presidents will help decide whether to recommend or not recommend adoption of each proposal.

Please use this link to download the 2017 Proposed Amendments to *Eta State Bylaws* and *Eta State Standing Rules*: http://www.ncdkg.org/uploads/8/0/8/5/80859646/2017prop_amendmentsncbylawsr.pdf.

Delta Chi Meetings	Eta State Convention
March 13	April 28-30
April 24	Wilmington, NC
May 15	

Convention Overflow Hotel

The Eta State convention room block at the Wilmington Hilton is full. The TownePlace Suites Wilmington-Wrightsville Beach (a Marriott property) has been announced as the overflow hotel and is offering DKG members rooms for \$119 plus taxes. The same price applies to Thursday for those wanting to go early.

The hotel is located at 305 Eastwood Road, Wilmington. The number is 910-332-3326.

DKG European Conference and Additional Travel Opportunity

Interested in attending the **DKG European Conference** in Tallin, Estonia this July? Teresa Shadoin, President of Alpha Gamma Chapter (Watauga and Avery counties), has made tour arrangements and is opening this opportunity to all DKG members, family and friends.

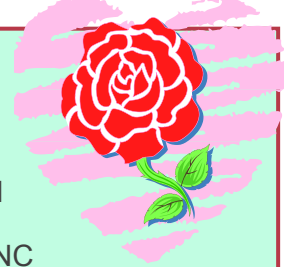
Tallin combines the comforts of the modern world to the cultural heritage of an early medieval era. After the conference, travel to two of Russia's most majestic cities—St. Petersburg and Moscow.

Persons interested in receiving information on travelling to the European Conference separately or with the Russian extension should email Teresa Shadoin at teresa.shadoin@gmail.com. View the itinerary at <http://www.encorettravelltc.net/nc-dkg-russia-2017/>.

(This is an independent trip, not a DKG endorsed/sponsored trip.)

Mark the Dates for State and International Deadlines

Mar. 1	Chapter Achievement Award form due to regional director
Mar. 27	Deadline for <u>hotel registration</u> for the convention rate
Mar. 31	Deadline for <u>Convention Ad</u> and any program materials to Nancy Tunstall
Apr. 1	Early bird registration ends for convention
Apr. 28-30	Eta State NC Convention, The Hilton Wilmington Riverside, Wilmington, NC
May 1	Deadline for <u>applications</u> for Lucile Cornet Individual Professional Development Awards
May 11	Founders Day
Jun. 23-25	Eta State NC Leadership Development Seminar, Caraway Conference Center, Asheboro
July 19-22	Southeast Regional Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC



Read more Eta State news at
<http://www.ncdkg.org/>

Mission Statement

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

Delta Chi Chapter 2016 – 2018 Officers

President: [Dr. Susan Blackburn](#)

1st V-P/Newsletter: [Susan Kuenzel](#)

2nd Vice-President: [Andrea Byers](#)

Recording Secretary: [Elizabeth Thornton](#)

Treasurer: [Jenny Cockrell](#)

Past President: [Dr. Donna Cotton](#)