

The Key Update

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

Vol. 23, No. 3
February, 2023

Chapter Meeting Dates for 2022-23

2023

Monday, March 13*

Tuesday, April 18

Monday, May 8

Meetings will be held in the Board Room of Wilkes County Schools Central Services. Social time and refreshments will be from 4:00 to 4:30 p.m., with the business meeting starting at 4:30 (*except the March meeting).

In-person attendance is encouraged. There will be no Zoom options this year.

Express Meeting is March 13

Our next meeting of Delta Chi Chapter will be **Monday, March 13, 2023**. This will be an “express” meeting—meaning there will be no business meeting and will only be a half-hour in length, from 5:15-5:45 p.m. It will be in the Board Room of Wilkes County Schools.

This gathering is intended to give our members who are in administration or have trouble getting to our 4:30 meetings a chance to participate.

Our speaker for the evening will be from Guardian Ad Litem, and she will explain the program and how it helps the children of Wilkes County. She will be available after the meeting for questions.

President Lori Holguin said, “We hope to see some members that we haven’t seen in awhile! We do have an additional activity before the meeting, so if you can arrive early, please join us for Cookies and Conversation. It is a floating event, so you may come on in at any time from 4:30-5:10 p.m.”

Cookies and Conversation

Before the short program on March 13, members are invited to join others for a short social time and cookies, to visit and “catch up” after our winter break. This will begin at 4:30 p.m. Women who have been nominated for membership have been invited to this event, so ones who might not know them will have a chance to meet them. This is a time to mingle and fellowship with each other, and the officers hope to see you there.

New Member Nominations Open

Nominations are being accepted for new members until March 3.

If you do not have the [Prospect Card](#), feel free to send First Vice President/Membership Chair [Dr. Susan Blackburn](#) your nominee’s name, address, email, employer, position, and phone number along with your name as sponsor. The nominees will be invited to the Cookies and Conversation/Express Meeting to be held at Central Services on March 13. Voting for new members will be by a Google form sent to members after the March meeting. Members will be inducted at the April meeting.

Inside

- Page 2 Presidents' Message, BT Project, Dues
- Page 3 Member News
- Page 4 Member News, State and International News
- Page 5 News, Calendar



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings Sisters,

Those that know me well know that I do not like Winter. I only like it to be cold for Christmas and if we have snow, otherwise, I prefer it to be warm. This winter has been warm, but it has brought the rain with it, so regardless, I am ready for Spring days. My daffodils are blooming beautifully and I am thinking that I may get some seeds planted early this year, and it seems like the earth is awakening after a hiatus.

That is what our March meeting always feels like to me. We come back together to fellowship and to serve with each other, and I am always happy to see each of you. I feel a renewed sense of excitement about the second half of our year. We have a good list of nominees for membership, and Beth Winstead, our NC DKG President, is coming to lead that induction ceremony in April. The Delta Chi Executive Board met this past weekend, and everyone had great ideas, and the discussions that we had were highly engaging. I felt that there were so many perspectives shared and that all of our ideas will lead to an even better year next year as we begin to plan. We plan to have some meetings in person and some on Zoom, and have ideas for additional service projects, as well as some fun activities that include families.

Being the president of Delta Chi is definitely a learning experience, and like the Spring flowers, I am growing each day, and hope to work with each and every one of you to make Delta Chi the best it can be. One flower can



be pretty, a bouquet is even more beautiful, but a flower garden is spectacular! It takes all of us to make a garden. As NC DKG Past President Teresa Cowen always said, "You grow, girl!"

In sisterhood,

Lori

The donation box that was in the front lobby of Central Services to drop off items for our BT and Nichols for Kids projects has been removed, so please leave any donations at the reception desk with your name on them, and we will mark your name on our sheet. Thanks!

Beginning Teacher Paper Drive Starts at the March Meeting

Our project of supporting Wilkes County Schools Beginning Teachers will culminate this year with our annual paper drive during March and April.

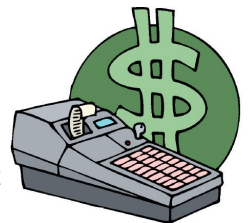
Bring your reams (or cases) of paper to the March or April meetings or drop them off at the reception desk in the front lobby of Central Services. Remember, there is no donation box in the lobby any longer.

Immediate Past Co-president Elizabeth Thornton coordinated the efforts to bag and distribute the remainder of the fall collection of sticky notes, cardstock, tissues, and markers for beginning teachers this week.

Members can still donate leggings for girls and jogging pants for boys for our ongoing Nichols for Kids support.

Dues Collection Time

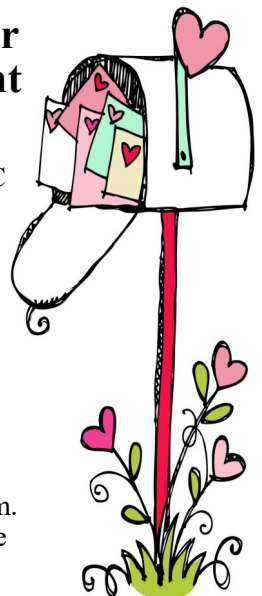
Delta Chi Treasurer Tamarah Cornette will begin collecting dues at the March meeting. Dues for all members will be due by May 31 for the 2023-2024 year. You may give her your dues at the April meeting also or mail your dues to Tamarah at 622 Sedgefield Circle, Wilkesboro, NC 28697-8590 anytime between now and the end of May.



Spaces Still Available for Leadership Development Seminar

It is not too late to register for the NC DKG Leadership Development Seminar to be held March 25-26 at Caraway Conference Center near Asheboro. Delta Chi President Lori Holguin chairs the NC DKG Leadership Development Committee that coordinates the seminar.

The deadline to apply and make payment is February 28, 2023. [Registration](#) is through a Google form. Check the [NC DKG website](#) for more information or contact [Lori](#).



Member News

Tina Johnson: Back in July of 2022, I retired from Wilkes County Schools. I treasured my time serving our students and families of our beautiful county and looked favorably on the next chapter of enjoying watching Trey and Savannah excel in all things high school. They are such a blessing in my life. Then on August 29, 2022, life as I had imagined for my retirement changed. I was diagnosed with an Immune-Mediated Necrotizing Myopathy (Polymyositis). This rare muscle disease is treatable (which is a blessing), but has no cure at this time. Unfortunately, this disease has impeded my mobility, and I require assistance from my husband, Bob to get around. (He is a saint!) Sadly, this makes it impossible to attend Delta Chi meetings in person. (I miss you all and know you are doing incredible work!)

I started displaying symptoms of IMNM while working last year. I fell multiple times at school more than my natural clumsiness. (Actually, funny stories involving precious students that I would be happy to share anytime.) Putting off going to the doctor (no high school administrator has time for that) until I was unable to get up from a chair on my own, raise my arms to brush my hair, and suffered the embarrassment of getting stuck on the toilet in the restroom multiple times, (The literal interpretation of getting caught with your pants down. Only luckily I had on a dress on each time to keep some sense of modesty.) that I finally decided get to the doctor. My issues were not normal aging or due to lack of self-care and exercise. Multiple MRIs, CT scans, X-rays, ultrasounds, and a muscle biopsy later, my neurologist made a diagnosis. I am grateful for my neurologist and my family practitioner that have provided me with the best possible care. Currently my treatment plan is taking a high dose of Prednisone daily, and I just started in home IVIG infusion. My short term goal is to be able to wrap Christmas presents for my family without assistance. See the hardest part for me has been the humbling experience of relying on others for help and asking for it. If this disease was meant to teach me a life lesson, then it has. Take time to notice the small things because when the small things are gone, they can leave the biggest hole because these small things really mattered the most!

Sandra Burchette: I retired from Wilkes County Schools with 30.2 years as principal of East Wilkes Middle School July 1. I am currently enjoying being mom to Nathaniel who is a senior at East Wilkes High School and being able to attend all of his high school extracurricular activities. We have gone on college visits together and are now applying for college. In addition to Nathaniel, I am enjoying spending time with my husband, Brian, and going on walks with my Goldendoodle, Mila. I am also enjoying spending time with friends at a weekly Bible study and a morning coffee time. I am able to volunteer and do more in my church too.

Dr. Donna Cotton: I am enjoying retirement and spent the first 3 months traveling to Florida, the beach, and ending September with a trip to Portugal with my son, William, his wife Quinn, and their five-month-old daughter, Thea. I went along as the "nanny" and enjoyed every minute of it!! It is a beautiful country! The month of October has had a few out of town visits too and lots of projects around the house. I highly recommend retirement!! I hope all is well with my DKG sisters and also hope to see you soon.

Dr. Susan Blackburn: I have some very exciting news! I'm engaged! During my time at Samaritan's Purse I met Matthew Blakely. He is a security guard there and a chaplain for the Hickory Police Department. We are planning to be married in July. We feel that God brought us together and look forward to life and ministry together. Between us, we have 6 children, and with spouses for all, the potential for 12! We are the Brady Bunch squared!

Linda Little: I had a wonderful time in Israel in October. The sights, the people, and the history were meaningful. I don't think I can ever read the Bible again, the same way I've read it before this trip.

Our Sympathies to...

Peggy Martin on the passing of her son Wes on October 24. Wes, an organ donor, was a teacher, actor, and a sweet soul. A Celebration of Life Ceremony was held November 5.



Member News

Anna Lankford: Randy and I will be celebrating our 35th wedding anniversary in June and we will be celebrating with a trip to Jamaica! Randy will be having knee replacement surgery February 22 so he will be celebrating a new knee as well. Pray for his "nurse"...he is not a good patient. I have also taken on another part time job in addition to being Curriculum Director for the Northwest RESA. I am working as a University Field Supervisor for ASU. I have 10 Residency Program Student Teachers this semester. It is nice to be back supporting beginning teachers!

Sharon Guenther: Former Delta Chi member Ann Hutchens Landis and I have been on a big road trip. We were in Nashville, TN; Branson, MO; Austin, TX; Houston, TX, and Fairhope and Montgomery, AL; then back to Wilkes. We had a blast—lots of good times visiting with friends in several places. Nothing is any more special than long-lasting friendships.

Tamarah Cornette: It's amazing how busy retirement can be! This year I am working Monday, Wednesday, and Friday as the Parent Liaison at North Wilkesboro Elementary. This schedule allows me to attend appointments with my mother when needed and be more involved with church events. Ritchie gave me a wheaten schnauzer for Christmas, which we appropriately name Joy so I am currently busy training her. Looking forward to seeing Delta Chi sisters soon!

Susan Kuenzel: Thank you to all who prayed for Will and our family during his battle with leukemia. Killing all his blood cells (and thus his immune system) during the height of the COVID pandemic was scary—at least to me! Over a year after his stem cell transplant in October, 2021, he is blessed to be in remission and is working now to pay his good fortune forward as a nominee for Visionary of the Year with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, raising money for cancer research and patient support. (If you are interested, you can read more of Will's journey on his blog at <https://lowcountrystrength.com/>.)



NC DKG Educational Law and Policy Committee

Stay Informed...

In the news, as the new legislators started the session, an alarm was sounded that enrollment for Educator Preparation Programs had dropped 40%. Enrollment in Residency programs has also declined. This means that by 2024-25, there will not be enough newly licensed teachers to replace those expected to retire. Meanwhile, State Superintendent Truitt is proposing a new plan, Operation Polaris 2.0, to revise supports for low-performing districts. If you would like to know more or how to contact your legislator, please see the Resources folder at <https://bit.ly/NCDKG-ELP> or email us at ncdkg.elp.chair@gmail.com.

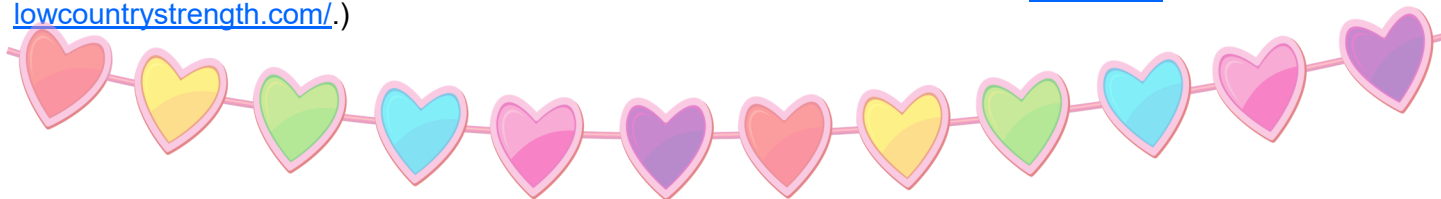
Scholarship Available, Due March 10

The NC DKG Educational Foundation would like to remind members that the application for the Marilyn F Grinwis Gray Scholarship is now available on the NCDKGEF [website](#). This scholarship is available to college students in NC who are majoring in Music Education or Elementary Education. NCDKGEF is asking members to spread the word to students or education departments. The deadline for applications is March 10, 2023.



Quick Reminder of Convention Dates

- **February 15:** [Workshop Proposal Form](#) to Second Vice President [Tammy Cullom](#), First Vice President [Hilda A. Parlér](#)
- **March 1:** ROSE Award to [regional director](#)
- **March 1:** Golden Key Award, Rising Star Award to the [Awards Committee](#)
- **March 1:** Newsletter Excellence Award, Website Excellence Award, Communications Excellence Award to Communications and Marketing Committee Chair [Ann Carol Stocks](#)
- **March 15:** [Convention Program Ad Form](#), questions to [Carol Bostian](#); mail checks to Leslie Black, NC DKG Treasurer, 4715 Little Mountain Road, Catawba, NC 28609
- **March 15:** [Marketplace Vendor Form](#) to Finance Committee Chair [Dr. Barbara Perry-Sheldon](#)
- **April 9:** [Convention Registration](#) to Convention Treasurer [Leslie Black](#)



Push Winter Blues Aside, Think Spring and NC DKG Convention!

As we pass the half-way point in February, thoughts turn to warmer weather, so now is the time to make your plans for the NC DKG Convention to be held April 28-30 in Greenville.

[Register online](#) and submit your payment via credit card or by printing and mailing the registration to NC DKG Treasurer Leslie Black at the address on the form. Direct registration questions to Melissa Dana at ConventionRegistrar@ncdkg.org or payment questions to Leslie at Treasurer@ncdkg.org.

Included in the registration process are the opportunities to register for the pre-conference activities, reserve meals, and donate to the Food Bank of the Albemarle convention project, NC DKG Headquarters, or The NC DKG Educational Foundation.

Make hotel reservations at the Holiday Inn by calling 252-355-8300 or 1-844-330-0296. Mention the code DKG for the group rate, which ends March 27. Help meet the room block and get to visit with fellow NC DKG members!

Newsletters Online

If you missed the Jan/Feb issue of *DKG News*, you can find it under the [Publications tab](#) → [DKG News](#) on the DKG website. The Winter Edition of *NC DKG News* is online at https://www.ncdkg.org/uploads/8/0/8/5/80859646/winter_2022_nc_dkg_news_vol._82-2_color.pdf.

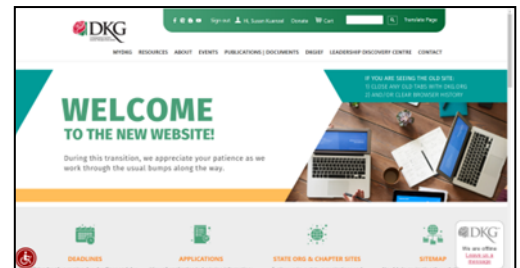
New DKG Website Live!

The DKG website has a new, cleaner, easier-to-use design! Check it out at <https://www.dkg.org>. Log in with the same ID and password used for the old site.

NC DKG Immediate Past President Dr. Teresa Cowan was chair of the international Communications and Marketing Committee when the redesign was conceived and begun, working closely with Headquarters technology staff and others to bring the new site to fruition.

Teresa said, “Our goal was to achieve a website that was user-focused and user-friendly (for members and nonmembers) while creating a site with a more modern feel. Thus far it has received positive feedback, and it continues to be tweaked as needed. Members are encouraged to offer their feedback and to provide suggestions or point out glitches as they discover them.”

On the member side, the green bar across the top allows for quick access to your MyDKG account by clicking on your name. Icons give easy access to DKG Facebook, the DKG Art Gallery, DKGSI blogs, and the DKG YouTube channel.



Log in to the member side and check out the new user-focused and user-friendly design. Update and share your profile in the secure directory while there!

Mark the Dates

Feb. 28	Deadline to apply for Leadership Development Seminar
Mar. 1	<i>Bulletin: Journal</i> submissions due
Mar. 1	DKGIEF Project applications due
Mar. 1	ROSE Awards, Golden Key, Rising Star, and Beginning Teacher Awards due, Newsletter Excellence, Website Excellence, and Communications Excellence Awards requirements due
Mar. 13	Delta Chi Chapter Meeting
Mar. 15	NC DKG Convention vendor requests and program ads deadline
Mar. 25-26	Leadership Development Seminar
Mar. 27	Group rate for convention hotel ends
Mar. 27	ASK Time for chapter presidents
Apr. 9	Early registration for the convention ends
Apr. 18	Delta Chi Chapter Meeting
Apr. 28-30	NC DKG Convention, Greenville
May 1	Cornet Individual PD Awards applications due
May 8	Delta Chi Chapter Meeting

International Conferences are being planned for this summer in Detroit, MI (July 11-16); Phoenix, AZ (July 18-22); and Tampere, Finland (July 26-29). [Learn more about all three](#) and register online at [DKG.org](https://www.dkg.org).

For comments or questions regarding *The Key Update*, please contact Editor [Susan Kuenzel](#) or President [Lori Holguin](#)