

# The Key Update

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

Vol. 21, No. 7  
 June, 2021

## In-Person and Virtual *May Delta Chi Meeting Recognized Member Accomplishments*

The May 2021 Delta Chi Chapter meeting, held in-person for the first time in 2021, focused on member and chapter accomplishments. A virtual component also allowed members to join from home.

In keeping with the theme “You are essential because you’ve met the COVID challenge,” Amber Faw and Alicia Stone shared their perspectives on teaching during the pandemic. Amber teaches 6th grade at Central Wilkes Middle School and Alicia teaches kindergarten at Wilkesboro Elementary.

Dr. Susan Blackburn, NC DKG Region IX Director and a past Delta Chi president, shared two awards our chapter received during the state convention in April. Delta Chi received a superior rating for Chapter Achievement and the Communications and Marketing Excellence Award. Dr. Blackburn also presented the Chapter Member of Excellence Awards to ten Delta Chi members for participation in DKG, such as involvement in chapter activities, projects, and attendance.



*Member of Excellence Award winners recognized at the May meeting were (left to right): Elizabeth Thornton, Jane Joines, Lori Holguin, Tamarah Cornette, Karen Ester, Ramona Hemric, and Kim Parsons. Not pictured are Anna Lankford, Alicia Stone, and Susan Kuenzel.*

*See more news from the meeting on page 2.*



### *New Meeting Dates for 2021-2022*

Tuesday, September 14, 2021  
 Monday, October 12, 2021  
 Monday, November 16, 2021  
 Tuesday, March 1, 2022  
 Monday, April 19, 2022  
 Monday, May 17, 2022

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*Congratulations to BT honorees (left to right): Amber Mathis (4th grade, Wilkesboro); Brooke Bentley (5th grade, Wilkesboro); Kelsey Welborn (kindergarten, Ronda Clingman); and Andrea Skerbinc (self-contained EC at West Wilkes Middle).*

## **Delta Chi Presents Awards to Four Beginning Teachers**

Delta Chi Chapter presented \$100 awards to four Beginning Teachers in recognition of their hard work and accomplished teaching during its May meeting.

Kim Parsons, chair of the Scholarship Committee, presented the awards. Nominees must be in their first three years of teaching, demonstrate exceptional and ongoing achievements in the profession, and demonstrate strong leadership abilities or potential for leadership.

Our chapter normally presents three BT Awards, but an anonymous donation made it possible to present the \$100 award to each of the teachers nominated this year.

### **THE PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE**

Sisters,

With grateful hearts we close out the 2020-2021 Delta Chi year. Amid a pandemic we have accomplished many things on behalf of students, teachers (beginning & veteran), and teaching assistants, none of which would have been possible without the support of members like you! To review highlights, celebrations, information and keep abreast of upcoming events you can visit our website at <https://deltachinc.weebly.com/> **and** follow posts on [facebook.com/deltachichapter](https://facebook.com/deltachichapter).

The executive committee met on June 1 to work and plan for 2021-2022 but we would love your input anytime. This could be projects, programs and/or meeting suggestions. **Also, if there is anything we can do to improve your membership experience, please share that with us.** (Elizabeth OR Tamarah)

We're wishing everyone a happy, healthy, blessed summer.  
See you soon!

*Elizabeth and Tamarah*

## **Scholarships Available**

One of the benefits of DKG membership is the numerous scholarships available to members.

At the May meeting, 2nd Vice President Lori Holguin shared the ease of applying for and receiving scholarships. Our chapter offers a scholarship to members, which Lori received to attend a TESOL workshop. She also received an NCDKG Educational Foundation Scholarship to fund that workshop attendance. Since applications to NCDKGEF are due in September of each year, Lori suggested members start planning ahead and review all the options available on their website at <https://www.ncdkgef.org/> under the grants and scholarship tabs.

NC DKG offers scholarships for members working on advanced degrees. Applicants must be a member for minimum of two years to apply for these. A post-baccalaureate and a doctoral scholarship are available. Applications are due February 1 of each year. (No applicants met the criteria for the post-baccalaureate degree this year so if you are working on a Masters or advanced degree, apply!) Info on the scholarships are posted on the [NC DKG Scholarship Committee webpage](#).

International offers a multitude of scholarships, including several \$10,000 scholarships for doctoral work. Dr. Donna Cotton and Dr. Susan Blackburn both took advantage of these funds. Check the [DKGIEF website](#) for dates and applications.



## Behind Every Child is Someone Who Cares!

Angel Bell, WCS Social Worker and Families in Transition Liaison, kicked off our final campaign of the year at our May meeting when she shared the slogan, "Behind every child is someone who cares!"

For this last donation this year, there is a need for leggings, jogging pants, and underwear for middle- and high school-aged students.

The collection will run from May 11 to June 11. Drop off items in the bin in the lobby of Central Services and don't forget to sign the log book.



### Note of Thanks

Delta Chi Chapter of DKG,

Thank you so much for your continued support of the children of WCS. We appreciate all the donations we have received and have been able to give to our students in need. It has been a huge blessing and a tremendous resource for the School Social Workers this year! Again, thank you so much for your compassion to help our students in need and your continued support to our schools!

Sincerely,  
Angel Bell, School Social Worker  
and Families in Transition Liaison  
April Marr, Director of Student  
Services  
Wilkes County Schools Social  
Workers—Amber Shumate,  
Michelle Sampson, Regina Brown,  
and Penny Souther

## Members Thank You

**Phyllis Clay:** Hello Delta Chi Sisters, First of all I want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and well wishes. I appreciate your thoughtfulness!

A lot has changed for us in the last year, due to David's stroke last May. David and I sold our home of 32 years in Wilkes County. I am currently living in Winston-Salem; whereas, my husband is currently residing in an assisted living facility in Greensboro. Life has been a challenge, but I continue to see the silver lining and God's graces.

My daughter is residing in Colorado and is planning a May wedding in 2022. We feel blessed to be gaining an awesome son-in-law who we already love and consider family.

I want to wish everyone a wonderful summer that can again be shared with our loved ones and friends. Hope to see you all next year at our first meeting!

**Dr. Donna M. Cotton:** I would like to thank my Delta Chi sisters for the cards and well wishes I received following my knee injury. I fractured my patella after a fall on the driveway on April 11, requiring surgery to "screw" it back together. I am hoping for a good report on June 3 from the doctor. Good news in my family, our son William and wife Quinn bought their first home--a 158-year-old townhome in Frederick, Maryland. They are very excited. It was move-in ready, just needs a few minor repairs and updating.

**Susan Kuenzel:** Thank you for the cards and prayers. They mean so much during these difficult times. Will's stem cell transplant was postponed for a second time but we are hopeful it will happen in late June. Please keep him and his family in your prayers for a successful transplant as he continues to battle leukemia (CMML). His prayer request remains for endurance.



You are a DKG member because  
someone thinks you are  
a key woman educator!  
It is an honor to be a member!

# Member News

**Karen Ester:** Our son, Corbin Ester, graduated from Harvard Medical School on Thursday, May 27. He will be doing his internship (1 year) and residency (4 years) at Duke University Hospital.

**Linda Little:** Two graduates from the Little family: Savannah ( Phillip's daughter) graduated from ASU; Kaylee Little (Gregory's daughter) graduated from high school!

**Dr. Susan Blackburn:** I am planning to go to Pigeon Forge with my sister and her family in June, then Lori Holguin and I will be traveling to San Antonio in July to attend the DKG International Conference! We are so excited!! Looking forward to seeing lots of DKG sisters and enjoying some wonderful San Antonio sites!! We will be staying on the Riverwalk which is always beautiful and fun. Lots of good food, fun, and friends!!

**Hannah Peacock:** My little family just celebrated Price's 4th birthday with a construction-themed party. He will be starting Pre-K next year and Piper will be going to 3rd grade. I feel like I blinked and time has flown by with both of them. I am beyond excited to have both the children with me at MFES. We plan to go to the beach and Dollywood this summer. Between our out-of-town vacations you will find us at the lake making memories!

**Heather B. Pardue:** I am gearing up for a FUN summer with the twins! We have a family beach trip planned for July and are anticipating many fun days together at home. The twins are also in a wedding in August so we'll be gearing up for that. It's been the hardest year of my professional career so I am eager to relax and enjoy my family. This year has taught me a lot about what to really worry and stress about and what really doesn't deserve my concern. Family, health, and self-care really are THE most important things. Happy Summer Everyone!

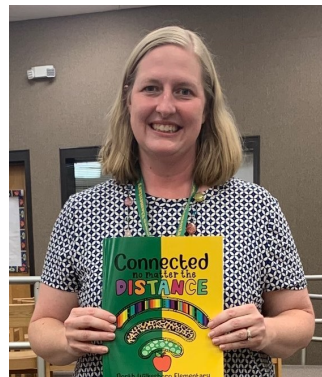
**Peggy Halsch:** My life has been dull for the last year, but Garrin and I hosted a "two-shot" party—a party for our friends who had completed the two shots for immunity to the virus. Being some of the first to get the shots has been the only advantage for being "older." We feel lucky that we live where we do and have friends and family to be nearby.

**Lori Holguin:** I leave for Alaska on June 3 and am so excited! We will visit Juneau, Anchorage, and Seward. We are not going on a cruise and made the plans ourselves. I will be flying in a helicopter for the first time and hiking on a glacier. We are also going on a whale watching tour.

I bought foldable kayaks for my husband and me, and we have gone to the lake several times and had so much fun! We get a lot of strange looks when we start with a flat piece of plastic and then fold it to make a kayak-like origami. When they are folded, they both fit in our backseat!

**Lois Bentley** has recovered from her broken pelvis and is doing well. She's been visiting her daughter Beth in Raleigh recently.

**Norma Jean Burnette** is continuing with physical therapy. Her daughter and son-in-law will be moving here to live with her soon.



*Congratulations to Andrea Byers (left) and Teresa Stone (right) for earning their Masters in Administration degrees in May and December, respectively.*

## Continue to Keep in Your Thoughts



**Jammie Jolly**, who had breast surgery and reconstructive surgery and is facing more surgeries.

**Dr. Donna Cotton** as she continues to heal from her knee injury.

**Mary Belle Greene**, one of our charter members, who resides at Villages of Wilkes.

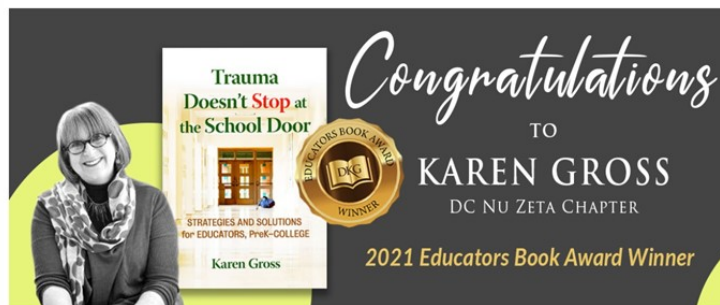
## 2021-2023 NC DKG Officers



*NC DKG Officers elected at the April convention are (seated, left to right) Beth Winstead, President; Hilda Parlér, First Vice President; (standing, left to right) Patrice (Patty) Higgins, Secretary; and Tammy Cullom, Second Vice President.*

## 2021 Educator Book Award Chosen

*Trauma Doesn't Stop at the School Door* has been selected by the DKG Educators Book Award Committee to receive that award this year. The website says, "... Given the prevalence of traumatic events in our world, Gross argues that it is time for educational institutions and those who work within them to change their approaches and responses to traumatic symptoms that manifest in students in schools and colleges." Read more about the book at <https://karengrosseducation.com/books/trauma-doesnt-stop-at-the-school-door/>.



## Mark the Dates

June 8	Early registration deadline for Portland conference
June 23	Early registration deadline for San Antonio conference
July 1	New DKG biennium begins
July 1	Window opens for chapters to file 990-N with the IRS
July 15	Form 15 due from chapters to state treasurer
Aug. 1	<i>Bulletin: Collegial Exchange</i> submissions due
Aug. 1	<i>NC DKG News</i> deadline
<b>Aug 10</b>	<b>Delta Chi sponsoring BT Luncheon for ANTS</b>
Aug. 15-Sept. 15	Arts & Humanities Gallery submission window open
Sept. 1	Deadline for applications for Cornet Individual PD Awards
<b>Sept. 14</b>	<b>Delta Chi Chapter meeting</b>
<b>Sept. 16-19</b>	<b>MerleFest parking project</b>

## It's Not Too Late to Apply for An NC DKG Committee

If you are interested in serving on a state committee for the coming biennium, fill out the [NC DKG Committee Interest Form 2021](#) found on the state website in the "New on the website..." box on the lower right. The deadline to apply is June 30.

## Deadlines Nearing for Both International Conferences

Both of the International Conferences this summer will be in-person events. The Portland, OR, conference will be held July 7-10, and the conference in San Antonio, TX, will be held July 22-24.

Virtual content from both conferences will be offered during the conference in San Antonio, July 22– 24, 2021. Register to access the virtual content via the virtual registration option on the registration form for the conference in San Antonio.

There is still time to register to attend on-site. Early bird registration is June 8 for Portland and June 23 for San Antonio.

Log in to the [DKG website](#) and click on the [Events](#) tab for more info.

Delta Chi Facebook page:

[facebook.com/deltachichapter](https://www.facebook.com/deltachichapter)

Delta Chi website:

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

For comments or questions regarding *The Key Update*, please contact

Editor [Susan Kuenzel](#) or one of the co-presidents:

[Tamarah Cornette](#),  
[Elizabeth Thornton](#)

