

# The Key Update


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

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## *Rada Knife Sale*

Our first order for our Rada Knife fund-raiser has been placed and President Dr. Susan Blackburn reports that the order was for over \$1400! That means our profit so far is \$540. That's a great start!

Thank you to all who have sold knives and cutlery and turned in your orders so far. The sale will continue through May 15. If you have more sales to submit, please give them to President Susan at the May 15 meeting or take them by the Central Office to her.



We are using the Rada Cutlery sale to fund our chapter's 50th Anniversary celebration, including refreshments, favors, and flowers.

Rada knives and cutlery are popular and make great gifts. Each member is being asked to take part in the sale by selling or purchasing 5 pieces. If you aren't able to come to the meeting, information will be available for you at the central office. Thank you in advance for supporting our fund-raiser and doing your part.

*May 15 Meeting*

## Happy 50th Anniversary to Delta Chi

Come help us celebrate our 50th anniversary as a chapter on May 15 in the Lakey Board Room of the Central Office.

Delta Chi was chartered as Beta Eta Chapter in late 1966, so the 2016-17 year is our 50th Anniversary! Beta Eta was reorganized as Delta Chi in 2012.



We will honor our Wilkes County charter members and celebrate our golden anniversary. The event will be a drop-in style, so come anytime between 4:30 and 6:30. Remarks and recognitions will begin at 5:30.

We are inviting Eta State officers and area chapter presidents, our regional director, members from Alpha Gamma, our sponsoring chapter, and local Board of Education members and the superintendent.

If you have not signed up to help, please contact President Susan at [blackbusu@wilkes.k12.nc.us](mailto:blackbusu@wilkes.k12.nc.us) to let her know how you can be involved.

## Andrea Byers Honored at State Convention as Rising Star



Delta Chi Second Vice-President Andrea Byers was named one of the Eta State NC Rising Stars at the state convention in Wilmington April 30, 2017.

The Eta State Rising Star Award recognizes and encourages key women educators in their early years of active membership in NC Delta Kappa Gamma. The nomination forms says, "These members demonstrate exceptional growth in education, leadership, and contributions to the organization consistent with our Vision and Purposes. Rising Star nominees reflect strong potential for successful leadership at the chapter and state levels and beyond."

Delta Chi Past President Tina Higgins Johnson was named a Rising Star at last year's convention, the first year the award was given. Congratulations to both Tina and Andrea for their state DKG recognitions! Delta Chi is proud of you!

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## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As we approach the end of the first year of the 2016-2018 biennium, I want to thank you for your support and participation during my first year as chapter president. Thanks to those who have attended meetings, provided refreshments, supported our beginning teachers (with food, time, money, pencils, and copy paper), brought donations for the Hope Harbor House and our local SAFE House, supported our Rada fundraiser, did your part of the MerleFest lot duty, provided legislative updates, purchased AVL Products from Tiiu, painted with Connie Ledford, and have offered to take a part in the 50<sup>th</sup> celebration. Without you, there would be no Delta Chi.

I think back to the time when I received an invitation to join Delta Kappa Gamma. It made me feel so special to think that someone recognized leadership potential in me and had confidence that I could contribute positively to their organization. I remember looking around and seeing all those ladies at the meetings that I looked up to. I felt humbled and honored to be part of such a distinguished group. I invite you to take a few moments to remember who it was that nominated you and how it made you feel. You should be proud that you were noticed for your hard work and dedication to the education profession.

Today we are empowered as female educators. We have a voice in education. We hold leadership positions in schools, at the district and state levels. Females have more opportunities than ever before. However, it wasn't too many years ago that things were much different. We owe a debt of gratitude to those ladies who came before us—who made it possible for us to become who we are today. Let us not take our opportunities for granted.

What is it that Delta Chi can do for you as a women's organization? What is it that **you** can contribute to make our organization stronger and better for those who follow us?

Sincerely,  
*Susan*

## MerleFest Project Successful

Thank  
you!

A great big heart-felt thank you goes out to those who helped in the parking lot for MerleFest this year: Tamarah and Ritchie Cornette, Brenda Gee, Beverly Story (and their brothers) Elizabeth Thornton, Lena Lovette, An-

drea Byers, Susan Blackburn, Ramona and Marty Hemric, Peggy Martin, Donna Cotton, Sandra McLean, Kim Parsons (and daughter), Christy Jolly (and son), Hannah Peacock (daughter and friends), Ann Landis (and friend), Sharon and Keith Guenther, Cindy and Jamie Kent.

We made a great team once again. It was fun, busy, hot, windy, tiring but also very rewarding financially and by meeting and talking to so many great people from all over the world. We have many loyal customers that love our parking lot because of the way we treat them and because we make sure their vehicles stay safe and protected. One gentleman told me he had parked somewhere else for a long time, but the people were "not very nice to them." He said he loved coming to our lot for the past 6 years because we were "so nice and friendly to them".

## Your Donations Matter

President Susan Blackburn delivered our donations to Hope Harbor House at the convention and to our local SAFE House this week. Executive Director Sandra Rankin (right) expressed appreciation for all of the donations.

Items donated included bookbags, books, notebook paper, toiletries, sheets, towels, paper towels, paper plates, napkins, diapers, wipes and more! Thank you for your generosity and support of our projects.



## Sandra Burchette Named Principal of the Year

Delta Chi salutes member **Sandra Burchette** for being selected Wilkes County Principal of the Year



at the recent awards ceremony honoring principal and teacher of the year nominees.

Sandra is principal at East Wilkes Middle School, where she is in her second year. She previously served as principal at Wilkesboro and Ronda-Clingman elementary schools. She also served three years as an assistant principal

— two at Millers Creek Elementary and one at Mountain View Elementary. Prior to that, Sandra was a classroom teacher for 13 years at North Wilkesboro Elementary. She holds bachelor's, master's, and education specialist degrees from Appalachian State University.

Sandra was also nominated as Principal of the Year in 2014-15 when she was at Wilkesboro Elementary.

Congratulations, Sandra!

## Delta Chi Honored with Awards, Participation at Convention

Delta Chi achieved its highest award yet at the Eta State NC Convention the end of April in Wilmington—the Excellence Award for Chapter Achievement, which is the middle category of three levels of achievement.

Chapters achieving the Excellence Award had accumulated 475 points or more. Points are based on activities, participation, attendance and other criteria defined on the Chapter Achievement Award form as determined by the Eta State NC Awards Committee.

Delta Chi also received awards of excellence for our newsletter and website. We received certificates for each, which will be on display during our 50th anniversary celebration on May 15.

In addition to the Rising Star Award (page 1), **Andrea Byers** shared about her grant from the Educational Foundation during the Foundation's annual meeting on Saturday morning. She also was part of the Foundation's grants session on Saturday afternoon.

**Linda Little** participated in the Convention Chorus that sang at the Saturday night Banquet Honoring Presidents and during the Celebration of Remembrance on Sunday morning.

**President Dr. Susan Blackburn** was honored to retire the American flag at the closing ceremony on Sunday.

Although not present at the convention, Delta Chi First Vice-President **Susan Kuenzel** prepared materials that were used at the convention for the Educational Foundation raffle. She also created the [new brochure](#) that the Foundation shared about the Major Campaign now underway to raise funds for more grants.

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## Member News

**Anna Lankford** and **Donna Cotton** participated in the Education Policy Fellowship Program this year, learning how policies that impact education are developed. They spent a day in Raleigh with our legislators, talking to representatives and senators and observing voting in both the House and Senate. The culminating activity for the program was a trip to Washington, D.C. to learn more about education policy and visiting the Capital and our state representative Virginia Foxx.

**Sharon Guenther**: I made it through MerleFest parking lot duty every day again this year although it was tougher this year with my bad knee. The day my husband and I had to work 10 hours because we did not have enough helpers was especially tiring. I will be having knee replacement on May 23, so your prayers would be appreciated. I look forward to a quick recovery and being much more mobile again.

**Judy Nofrey**: I am presently traveling on a 5500 miles RV trip across the southern states. Visiting with my cousin in Scottsdale and a friend I grew up with in Phoenix, after 55 years, was a highlight of the trip. I enjoyed revisiting the Grand Canyon as well as seeing many of the Utah National Parks for the first time. I am looking forward to seeing Santa Fe and other places as we travel back to North Carolina. Our country is so beautiful!

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



## Southeast Regional to be Held in Myrtle Beach, SC

The number of Eta State NC members planning to attend the International conference for the Southeast Region this summer in nearby Myrtle Beach, SC, is growing! At the Eta State NC Convention the end of April, 45 members had indicated they were attending! Be a part of the group! It's a wonderful experience!

The Southeast Regional will be held in Myrtle Beach July 19-22, 2017. Registration materials are [online](#) on the DKG website under the Events tab. The registration form is on the left under the registration graphic.

Plan to attend with the conference so close to home!

## Want to Serve on a State Committee?

President-Elect Connie Savell is seeking interested members to apply for committees on the state level. If you are interested, fill out the application form and send to her at [cps2017eta@gmail.com](mailto:cps2017eta@gmail.com) by May 31. Watch the website for the new form.

## New Gallery of Fine Arts to Open

The new Gallery of Fine Arts to open May 1 includes six Eta State NC artists—Laveita Brinson, Dr. Judith Carlson, Brenda Carter, Terry Denny, Willie Harriett, and Lynn K Nadel. Watch for more info on them in the next *Eta State News*.



*Happy Mystery Quilt by Dr. Judith Carlson in the Gallery of Fine Arts.*

Submission window for the next Gallery of Fine Arts will open in August—so plan ahead now! We have lots of talent in Delta Chi so plan ahead and submit something for the next Gallery!

See the Gallery online at <http://gallery.dkg.org/>.

## New Eta State NC Officers Elected

President —Connie Savell  
 First Vice-President—Dr. Teresa Cowan  
 Second Vice-President—Elizabeth Miars  
 Secretary—Nancy Teague  
 Ruth Jones will remain Treasurer  
 Sue Roberts, Editor of *Eta State News*, is retiring and Carol Bostian will become editor. The position of webmaster was voted as a selected position and will be advertised in May. Watch the website for more details if you are interested in applying.

## Mark the Dates for Chapter, State and International Events

- May 11 Founders Day
- May 15 50th Anniversary Celebration of Delta Chi Chapter, May meeting, BOE, 4:30 p.m.**
- May 31 Deadline for Headquarters Brick Sale submissions
- May 31 Lobbying Day in Raleigh (see page 3)
- Jun. 23-25 Eta State NC Leadership Development Seminar, Caraway Conference Center, Asheboro
- July 10 *Eta State News* deadline
- July 15 Form 15 due from chapter treasurers to state
- July 19-22 Southeast Regional Conference, Sheraton Convention Center Hotel, 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](#)  
 1<sup>st</sup> V-P/Newsletter: [Susan Kuenzel](#)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President: *Andrea Byers*  
 Recording Secretary: *Elizabeth Thornton*  
 Treasurer: *Jenny Cockrell*  
 Past President: *Dr. Donna Cotton*