

The Key Update

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

Vol. 18, No. 1
 September, 2017

Meeting Monday Night, September 18

Delta Chi Chapter will hold its first meeting of the new school year Monday, September 18, at 4:30 p.m. in the Wilkes County School's Board Room.

President Dr. Susan Blackburn will present Delta Chi's check to Communities in Schools in support of their New Century Scholars program. Melissa Higgins will join us to accept the donation and give us an update on the recent New Century Scholars Induction Ceremony and other CIS activities.

Also on the agenda for the meeting will be a review of the nomination process for new members, Ceremony of Remembrance for Judith Walsh, and committee meetings. President Susan will share updates from the recent Eta State NC Executive Board meeting held last Saturday in Elon. The update will include information on the new state wellness initiative and a community challenge from the Educational Foundation.

Dues will be collected. Jenny Cockrell, treasurer, reminds members to make their checks of \$72 payable to Delta Chi.

Help us meet our attendance goal by being there Monday!

Saying Goodbye to One of Our Own Judith Walsh



Delta Chi mourns the passing of Judith Walsh, an honorary member of Delta Chi since 2008, on August 23, 2017. Judith was Finance Officer for Wilkes County Schools for many years and was a School Board member after her retirement.

Judith was a busy volunteer, working with Wilkes Heritage Museum, NCAE Retired School Personnel, North Wilkesboro Woman's Club, and American Red Cross, among many others. She was active in her church, Goshen Baptist, as a Sunday School teacher, Bible School director and member of the choir.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family, husband Jesse, daughters Debora and Denise, and son Jesse III, and their families. She had 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Delta Chi will remember her at our September meeting.

Who Will You Nominate?

Delta Chi will nominate and initiate new members during the 2017-18 year.

During our September meeting, we will have membership forms available for you to consider educators who exemplify the qualities of Delta Kappa Gamma and could benefit from membership. Those forms will be due in October. In November, we will vote on new members to invite into membership.

An orientation session to explain DKG will be held sometime between November and March. April will be our special initiation and installation of new officers ceremony, one of the special traditions of the Society. In May, during a social event, members will share more about DKG with our new members.

Mark Your Calendar

2017-18 Meeting Dates Announced

Mark these dates for Delta Chi Chapter meetings. All meetings will be held in the Board Room at the Wilkes County School's Central Office and will begin at 4:30 p.m.

September 18—Communities in Schools presentation, committee meetings

October 16—R.G. Absher Greenway and Ghost Tours

November 13—Vote on new members, Tiiu Garrett products

March 19—Camp Harrison Nature Center and Beekeeping

April 16—Installation and Initiation Ceremony

May 21—Social Event



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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Delta Chi Sisters,

Greetings and salutations as we enter the 2017-18 school year. What a wonderful opening of school we have experienced in Wilkes County! Our teachers and children were worn out after the first full week of school, but seem excited to be back in a routine.

We were pleased to welcome about 60 beginning teachers to our school system. Thank you to all those who contributed desserts and dry erase markers. The teachers were most gracious and many thanked us for providing the lunch and dessert for them. They were especially delighted with the dry erase markers. It doesn't take much to bring happiness to an educator!

Our hearts still grieve the loss of our precious sister Judith Walsh. I saw a few of you at the funeral home. Mr. Jesse, her husband, was so complimentary of our organization and talked about how much it meant to Judith. She will be greatly missed by all that knew her. Her life was a testimony of service to our county in many ways.

Please continue to remember Linda Bentley and Norma Jean Burnette, who both recently lost their husbands, as well as Billie Jo Scott who lost her father, Susan Kuenzel who lost her sister, and Elizabeth Thornton who lost her mother earlier this year.

I am looking forward to the beginning of the second year of our biennium. Our first meeting will take place on September 18, at 4:30 in the WCS Board Room. We will be discussing the process of nominating new members, our suggestion of the Most Promising Young Educator, and hear from Communities in Schools. Refreshments will be provided by the Executive Board.

We look forward to seeing you all!

Sincerely,
Susan



Schools for Africa

Schools for Africa became the Society's first official international project in 2010. Since that time, members have donated approximately \$324,150 to the project, as of October 2016.

Currently the project works with 13 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The SFA mission involves providing access to quality basic education for children, focusing on girls, orphans and other vulnerable youngsters. Let's continue to support SFA this year. Bring your change!

Suggested New Recognition for Beginning Teachers

The Executive Board has made the recommendation to create a new recognition for Beginning Teachers called the "**Most Promising Young Woman Award.**"

It is proposed that in the spring we send out applications to the principals and have them nominate teachers who meet our chosen criteria. We would have our scholarship committee review the applications and select one teacher to be recognized at our May meeting and receive a \$250 grant-in-aid.

This proposal will be voted upon at the September meeting and suggestions for the criteria will be needed. Think about it and send your suggestions to [President Susan](#) or give them to her that night.



Congratulations To...

Sharon Guenther
Pauletta Parker
Susan Kuenzel

Sharon Guenther was honored with the United Way's 3rd Annual Great State Hero Award in the area of Crisis Intervention at their September 5 dinner ceremony. She was nominated by the Child Abuse Prevention Team of Wilkes. Sharon said, "I am very humbled and honored to be recognized by friends and colleagues throughout Wilkes County."

Pauletta Parker was selected as the General Federation of Women's Clubs of North Carolina (GFWC-NC) as the state LEADS (Leadership Education And Development Seminar) candidate to attend the GFWC International Convention in Palm Springs, CA, in June 2017. She is currently the President of the GFWC North Wilkesboro Woman's Club and the President of the GFWC-NC District 2. She commented, "Even though the temperatures hovered around 120 degrees, I had a wonderful time representing GFWC-NC during the GFWC Annual International Convention."

Susan Kuenzel lead the webmaster and editor trainings for the representatives of the 11-state Southeast Region during the International DKG Southeast Regional Conference in Myrtle Beach this summer. Susan also presented a session on "Google Me This and More" and a Ten-Minute Takeaway on social media during the conference. Susan is the Southeast Region representative on the International Communications and Publicity Committee.

Member News

Jane Joines: I am in Emerald Isle celebrating my 63 birthday with Max, my children and grandchildren. Looking forward to starting my tutoring job at Mo. Falls on Monday, September 11. Life is good!

Hannah Peacock: My son Price was born May 22nd! We have had a wonderful summer adjusting to being a family of four. Piper, almost 5, loves being a big sister and has started Pre-K this year. I am still at Ronda-Clingman and this year is off to a busy but great start!

Sharon Guenther: After total left knee replacement in May, I am well on my way to a full recovery. It has been 14 weeks since surgery, and I am walking well, exercising and feeling very little pain with no limping. Yipeeeee! So glad I had the surgery.

Andrea Byers: This summer we spent many hours on the ball field but it was all worth it—my daughter's team won the 8U state championship in July. It was a hot, yet exciting time for us. We also visited Dollywood for the first time; it was a great family time.

Frances Tharpe: After successful eye surgeries in June, I have 20/20 vision in my right eye and 20/25 in the left eye. I now only have 1.50 readers for very fine print.

Two grandchildren are enrolled in online classes at Gardner Webb. A grandson is in a MEd program in Educational Administration; a granddaughter is in a BS program in Business. A grandson is at Warren Wilson playing basketball and presently in a BS program in Psychology. Another grandson is in his second year in the Early College High School program at Wilkes Community College.

I am in my second year in the Minister of Music program at Bethel Baptist Church, North Wilkesboro. I hope to successfully complete this program in May with an Associate degree.

My grandchildren and I are all working hard and enjoying our classes.

Sharron Huffman: Ronald and I went on our first cruise to the Bahamas in August with our son and his family. The cruise was a gift for our 48th anniversary from kids. We also spent a few days in Panama City Beach with our daughter and her family. (They were safe—Irma was to the east. Got some rain and wind on Monday.) Nothing is better than spending time with the grandkids!

Norma Jean Burnette had a couple outpatient procedures recently and had some polyps removed. She happily reports they were all benign. We are so thankful.

If you know of an illness or death or a celebration of a member, please share it with us. Kaye Lamb (kayelamb77@yahoo.com) is sending cards so let her or President Susan (blackbusu@wilkes.k12.nc.us) know when someone needs remembering!

Kim Parsons: My daughter Haley, who is a junior at Meredith College is studying abroad this semester. She will be in Copenhagen, Denmark, until December. She is attending the University of Copenhagen taking classes in the field of neuroscience.

Linda Little: I've entertained all 5 of my grandchildren at different times this summer. It's the first summer they've experienced Wilkes County. We managed to see the Frescos at the Episcopal Church in Wilkesboro, walked the green way, ate ice cream at several establishments, toured the new candy store in Wilkesboro, and then we traveled to Boone/Blowing Rock. They like the mountains and we received a nod from all of them. (ages 7-18).

Rosanna Bare: We are expecting our 2nd child in February!!! Nathaniel is 17 months old.

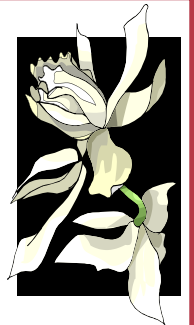
Susan Kuenzel: Our second granddaughter was born May 10, just before my birthday! Jenna turned 3 in August and started Pre-school this fall. I'm happy to report that, although they live in Charleston, they survived Irma without problems.

Our Sympathies To...

Norma Jean Burnette on the passing of her husband John on June 10, 2017.

Linda Bentley on the passing of her husband Worth on August 23, 2017.

The family of **Judith Walsh** who passed away on August 23, 2017.



Dues Are Due This Month!

Make your checks payable to Delta Chi and bring them with you to the meeting! Active members' dues are \$72, which includes the \$2 for the state headquarters. If you are unable to attend the September meeting, please mail your check to Jenny Cockrell at 403 Finley Street, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659, or send them to her on the pony to Millers Creek Elementary School.



Please be prompt paying your dues. If you need to spread your payments out, just let Jenny know. She will be happy to help you.

DKG State and International News

North Carolina to Host International Conference

Eta State NC President Connie Phifer Savell issued a formal invitation to the Southeast Region of DKG International to attend the 2019 conference in North Carolina.

Her invitation was part of the closing meeting of the Southeast Regional Conference this summer in Myrtle Beach. Eta State members in attendance, wearing sparkly visors, participated by singing an invitation to the tune of "Nothing Could Be Finer than to be in Carolina."

President Savell appointed Sheila Groves, Elaine McRae, Dr. Teresa Cowan, Dedra Davis and Thommi Stammer as members of a SERC Steering Committee during the Fall Executive Board meeting September 9. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please let President Savell know. Email her at cps2017eta@gmail.com.

International Headquarters staff chooses the location and date for the regional conference. Watch for more information when that announcement is made.

Eta State NC last hosted the Southeast Regional Conference in July, 2003, at the Research Triangle Park in Durham County.

Delta Chi members should plan ahead to attend the International Conference when it is held in NC, even if only for one day. It is a fellowship experience, in addition to a learning one.

2018 Convention Hotel Registration Open

Hotel registration for the April 2018 Eta State NC Convention is now open!

Eta State NC Executive Secretary Dr. Barbara Perry-Sheldon announces that



the room block has been increased at the Hilton Charlotte University Place. Rooms are still expected to fill quickly so book early.

The convention begins Friday, April 27, 2018 and concludes on Sunday, April 29. The rate of \$115 plus taxes is available until **April 12 or until the block is filled.**

Registration may be made online at http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/C/CLTHUHF-DKG-20180426/index.ihtml?WT.mc_id=POG or by calling 704-547-7444. Ask for the DKG room block.

How to Donate to the DKG Emergency Fund

Worried about where your money will go if you donate to help all those affected by the recent hurricanes in Texas and Florida? Consider the DKG Emergency Fund—100% of your donation will go to DKG sisters who have experienced loss from natural disasters.

DKG has posted this on their website (http://member.dkg.org/DKGMember/DKGMember/Hurricane_harvey.aspx):

Based on the number of calls and emails we have received at DKG Headquarters, we want to remind all members that contributions to the DKG Emergency Fund will help members impacted by Hurricane Harvey... as well as those with damage from other natural disasters.

To contribute to the Emergency Fund by credit card, go to https://www.dkg.org/DKGDONATE/DKGDONATE/Donate_to_DKG.aspx and click on "Emergency Fund."

If you would prefer to make a donation by check, please [download Form-43](#). Mail this form with your check to the address listed on Form-43. As additional information becomes available about how best to help chapters and members as they recover from the hurricane, Headquarters personnel will spread the word and help make the connections that so well illustrate the spirit of DKG.



Watch the home page of the DKG website for more updates.



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS

DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

Let's Sparkle!

What Should the Focus Be of Eta State NC in the Legislature?

For the past few years the Eta State NC Educational Law & Policy Committee has surveyed members to identify which school-related issues are most important. The data gained from this survey is used to compile a White Paper to share with members of the NC General Assembly in Raleigh. The Committee is currently seeking member input about which issues need to be included on the survey for this school year.

Last year's prioritized list included: 1) Increase salaries of all educators, 2) Continue to provide medical and retirement benefits for all educators, 3) Reduce the amount of standardized state testing, 4) Hold all schools that receive tax dollars equally accountable for student learning, 5) Increase per-pupil funding, 6) Oppose public funding of private and religious schools through vouchers, 7) Halt the current A-F system of grading public schools, 8) Limit the number of charter schools in NC to 170.

Give your input to President Susan by the October meeting so she can share your wishes with Susan Phipps, chair of the state ELP Committee.

Connie Savell, our new Eta State NC president, has chosen "Let's Sparkle" as her theme and used it to outline her goals for the 2017-2019 biennium.



The words in the goals are also adjectives that describe DKG members—Savvy, Passionate, Articulate, Respectful, Knowledgeable, Leaders, and Excellent.

Delta Chi President Susan will share more information on President Savell's Wellness Initiative at our September meeting. We can learn to sparkle from the inside out!

Let's SPARKLE!

Goals:

- Encourage **S**avvy leadership
- Inspire **P**assionat, meaningful programs and projects
- Analyze and **A**rticulate current educational issues
- Further **R**espect for diversity in membership
- Promote **K**nowledge through lifelong learning
- Establish and **L**aunch a member wellness initiative
- Advocate **E**xcellence in education

Mark the Dates for Chapter, State and International Events

Sept. 18	Delta Chi Chapter Meeting
Sept. 30	Deadline to apply for NC DKG Educational Foundation grant
Sept. 30	Requested dues payment date for Delta Chi members
Oct. 5	World Teacher Appreciation Day
Oct. 16	Delta Chi Chapter Meeting
Oct. 27	Official birthday of Eta State NC. Happy 83rd birthday, Eta State!
Oct. 31	Input for ELP Member Survey due to Susan Phipps
Nov. 1	Deadline to apply for Lucile Cornetet Seminar Professional Development Award
Nov. 13	Delta Chi Chapter Meeting
Dec. 15	Submission deadline for <i>Bulletin: Collegial Exchange</i>



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](#)