

Alpha Kappa Chapter  
The Delta Kappa Society International

Minutes of the General Meeting  
April 8, 2017  
Submitted by Nancy Watson

Call to Order/ Welcome: 11:00 a.m. at the home of Delores Hudson

Members Present: Rhonda Work, Carole Jo Hardiman, Felecia Jordan, Barbara Kelly, Susan Vinson, Delores Hudson, Susan Womble, June Townsend, Latressa Marschka, Ginny Densmore, and Nancy Watson

Program: "Promoting Greater Student Success for Minority Students". Delores discussed ways to keep students engaged through the use of positive characterizations (not at risk, but at promise) of their accomplishments and attitudes toward students. Strategies that bridge the achievement gap include encouraging leisure reading, encouraging AP participation, and identifying gifted characteristics.

We viewed a short video about a school in New York to see positive steps that have been employed and have shown to be effective. Each member was asked to suggest ways to help minority students achieve greater success. Those suggestions are as follows:

1. Scaffolding so that students never fail and recognition for improvement.
2. High expectations – make learning fun, use biographies, find something each child excels in and improve on that area.
3. Hold expectations high while providing the support to get there. Create a personal connection with students.
4. Real World Stuff - project based focused on student interests, for example, basketball program – To search, write letters, do a budget so they can use math and English and see that they can make a difference.
5. Focus on building vocabulary in everything – use all in the environment to expand word usage and understanding.
6. Art as a motivator - never underestimate the value of the arts – often the first thing to go when funds are low. They (the arts) develop the brain in amazing ways and are great motivators and creative outlet.
7. Books for early readers – "experience" education.
8. Avid Readers - continue requirements for AR reading through middle and high school.
9. Mentoring programs – Reading, speakers, careers, – law, medicine, etc. Writing about what was read and sharing what you wrote. Self-concept training and encouraging comments. Grant – gardening – soil, cooking, math, interact with other teachers.
10. Teachers that love students - set high expectation – but provide many opportunities for success along the road!
11. Equal work for ESE – reduce the practice to what students' need – don't make ESE students stand out.

Approval of the Minutes from the last meeting: Rhonda proposed that the minutes be accepted, seconded by Nancy. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The current balance is \$917.95. The State Meeting in April will cover expenses for registration, room and gas/mileage. The Treasurer's report was approved.

## Agenda Items:

1. Kudos for the December Book Project which was deemed a success.
2. Kudos for Connie on her communications award.
3. Kudos for Elmira Davis for being recognized as one of the "25 Women You Need to Know".

## Old Business:

1. Susan Womble led a discussion of the new project with the Southern Scholarship Foundation to stock the pantry for the Lundquist House at FSU. We are joining another group who is also providing items to the house. Items that were contributed at the meeting will be delivered next week. Information will be available for those who would like to participate. There was a suggestion that we also consider assisting FAMU in some way. It was noted that the Southern Scholarship Foundation also has houses at FAMU, Bethune Cookman, UF, and Florida Gulf Coast University. Barbara Kelly has a contact at FAMU and will follow up to get more information. Information on the Southern Scholarship Foundation will be shared at the District Meeting March 3, 2018.
2. The idea to provide a way to share school supplies among members was discussed. Susan Vinson suggested that pictures of items could be posted on the Facebook page. This would allow members who have unused items or retiring members to post items for others.
3. Members were encouraged to do individual or group projects of interest on their own.

## New Business:

1. Calendar Updates:
  - a. May 20, 2017 - Founders' Day at the Elks Club from 11:00 – 1:00
  - b. July meeting, date and place to be determined, will be a luncheon.
  - c. Oct 7, 2017 - Joint orientation for new members.
  - d. Oct 28, 2017 – Joint initiation of new members.
  - e. Mar 3, 2018 – District Meeting, Tallahassee.
2. Gale and Monica will be attending the State Meeting.

## Announcements:

1. Retired members were encouraged to consider joining the Leon/Wakulla Retired Educators organization.

Adjournment: 12:45 p.m.