

**Alpha Kappa Chapter
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International**

Minutes of the Big Bend Coordinating Council Legislative Meeting

Called to order at 10:30 am at the Leon County Library East Branch.

There were 20 members present from the four big bend chapters. Alpha Kappa was represented by Susan Womble, Nancy Watson, Dawn James, Melissa Olson, June Townsend, Vicki Rhodes, Nikki Abels, Rhonda Work, Connie Lewis, Alice-Ann Darrow, and Gale Workman.

Guest: Dr. Joanni Bewa

Our chapter meeting consisted of approving the nomination of Melissa Olson as Corresponding Secretary.

Some highlights of the overall legislative meeting included:

Introduction of Dr. Joanni Bewa, M.D., a physician from Benin, Africa and a public health graduate research assistant and a Fulbright Scholar at the University of South Florida. She holds a doctorate in medicine and is a Master of Public Health candidate at USF.

Rally in Tally at the capital on January 29 and 30.

District 1 meeting at Raa Middle School on March 2 and 3.

DKG National Forum in Washington, D.C. on March 18-21.

Florida Legislative Representative Lorraine Ausley of District 9, was the guest speaker. Rep. Ausley spoke about bills that had been introduced in the legislature during this session. She was informative about “trains” which are bills that have multiple amendments and provisions attached to the original bill in hopes of getting things passed. She shared her efforts to continue working with other educational stakeholders to improve quality pre-school options for underserved members of the community. Rep. Ausley gladly answered questions, posed for pictures and encouraged everyone to take part in the upcoming Rally in Tally.

The meeting was adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Nikki Abels
Recording Secretary