



Alpha Gamma State NEWS

Volume 63 Issue 5

KENTUCKY

Sept/Oct 2015



Mark Your Calendars for...

ALPHA GAMMA STATE CONVENTION

April 15—17, 2016

Pikeville, KY

Details coming soon!

DKG INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

JULY 5—8

NASHVILLE, TN

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Newsletter Submission Dates

Next issue: **articles, pictures, accomplishments, white roses, etc are due by December 1, 2015 for December 15, 2015 digital release**

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by Pascal Bailey, State Organization President



Circle of Friends

Evolution, step two

Listen. Is there a message you need to hear, but you are too busy talking to hear it? This message has been hammered into me the past two years. I am a conversationalist, inherited from

Momma, but when I watch people babble incessantly, I am reminded of how important it is to listen. Everyone needs to be heard, but that won't happen unless we listen.

DKG members have a passion for our beloved society. I see it at every meeting I attend, but every Chapter has different types of goals and needs. That is not negating the need to strengthen our Chapters, but each Chapter has its own (insert purpose). In the perfect Chapter, I would imagine ladies of diverse ages and backgrounds that (insert Purpose). Committees would work towards goals and each Chapter would help to impact education and make the world a better place.

Membership continues to be a crucial component of the survival of our organization. Each Chapter will have to determine how they will strengthen our membership. For some Chapters, it will be to grow membership with younger members and early career educators and for others, it will be to help hold onto our aged membership. Many members can no longer attend meetings. Reserve membership is a perfect fit for these members. Some members are dropped for non-payment because caretakers are unaware or don't care about the member's love of DKG.

Chapters need to determine how they will deal with these types of membership issues. Officers and Committee Chairs need to listen to what our members want and need. Offer reserve membership as an option, active membership can be reinstated at any time. Offer to pay for non-payment members by finding sponsors or just passing a "hat".

Chapters need to determine how to deal with members who don't attend meetings due to busy-ness. At one time DKG would poo-poo women who didn't put DKG first and always attend meetings. The world of today? I wonder why anyone would go into education with all of the demands placed on educators. Can a member who can't put DKG first be a viable member? Listen to your Chapter members, if they can value what a person has to offer, no matter how limited, embrace that member and nurture them.

State and Chapter officers need to take care to listen to what our members want and need. And, I have heard our dues are too high. What can we do to fix that? I am listening.



Did You Know...

Jenny Bay-Williams, XI, was the lead author, along with Sherri Martinie, on the cover article for the August 2015 edition of Teaching Children Mathematics. The title of the article is "Order of Operations: The Myth and the Math".



Panel Discussion at Fall Leadership Workshop





Educational Excellence

by Kathy Zwanzig, 1st Vice President



PICK YOUR PASSION!

Empowerment - Empowering women through leadership opportunities

Educational Excellence - Promoting Educational Excellence through programs and projects

Changing Global Awareness - Changing Global Awareness through collaboration worldwide.

These are the Goals set by the International Educational Excellence Committee for this Biennium. Every Chapter and every member should determine how they can help the Society attain these goals. Each individual Chapter or member may not be able to address ALL of these, but ALL Chapters, and ALL members, can **Pick Their Passion!** and find a way to fulfill at least one of the goals.

What are some ways that this can be done? Let us look at ONE goal at a time.

Empowerment

- Promote leadership from where ever you are.
- Promote personal growth through lifelong learning.
- Focus on the arts and sharing them through the new magazine.
- Focus on community leadership.
- Develop programs that emphasize professional pride.

How can an individual meet any of these?

- Consider volunteering to take an office or chairing a committee in your Chapter in the upcoming biennium. Or, if you have been an officer in the past, mentor a new officer.
- Sign up for a continuing education course: Photography, yoga, cake decorating, water aerobics, genealogy.
- Submit a work of art or poem or story to one of the Society publications.
- Take on a leadership position at your church, at your school, in your local government.
- Volunteer to give a program or plan a program addressing Pride in the Education Profession.

Your ALPHA GAMMA State Educational Committee is made up of the following Key Women Educators from across the state of Kentucky:

- Kathy Zwanzig, XI, Chair
- Debbie Duffy, XI -LOUISVILLE, KY
- Alma Benedict, THETA -LOUISVILLE, KY
- Jana Beth Francis, RHO -OWENSBORO, KY
- Pam Bernard, ZETA -Fort Mitchell, KY
- Cheryl Slater, NU -PIKEVILLE, KY
- Jessica Campbell, OMEGA -PADUCAH, KY
- Jessie Trotter, ALPHA DELTA -BRANDENBURG, KY
- Kari Critchelow, ALPHA ZETA -HARDINSBURG, KY
- Sharon Whitehead, IOTA -SOMERSET, KY

We encourage you to contact any of us if you have any questions or any ideas to share. We especially encourage you to share your successful projects and programs. We will be asking for these specifically in January, with your annual report. We will be receiving the Educational Excellence report form this month and sending it to the Chapter Presidents to be completed by the EEC Chairs.

Also, decide now what program and project you would like to submit for the Annie Award, and which teacher you would like to submit for the Educational Excellence Award. We are considering some changes on both awards. Applications were distributed with the EEC materials at the Fall Leadership Workshop. Once the decisions have been made, we will get the applications to the Chapter Presidents to pass along to the EEC Chairs.

Membership

by Dr. Elisabeth (Beth) Pyle, 2nd Vice President



When I became Second Vice-President and Membership Chair for AGS, I was somewhat intimidated – not knowing exactly what to do and where to begin. Two things have lessened this anxiety.

1) Kathy Zwanzig and all past ALPHA GAMMA STATE 2nd Vice-Presidents who provided a great foundation upon which to build and, 2) attending the Southeast Regional Conference Leadership training membership workshop conducted by Sherrie Collins, a member of the International membership Committee.

Here are a few of the highlights from the Membership workshop:

Identify, Invite, and Initiate Chapters in Kentucky, like so many Chapters throughout the Society are searching for new ways to increase membership. During the SER membership workshop, we learned about the Identify, Invite, and Initiate plan. International President Lyn Schmid encourages the adoption of this new plan that has been used successfully to revitalize struggling Chapters, to energize healthy Chapters, and to develop new Chapters in several State organizations. Dr. Schmid's easy to use recruitment plan, now available on the DKG website Membership Committee page, includes complete instructions and all the resources your chapter needs to begin building membership.

Reinstate Past members are often a great resource for "new" members. Do not overlook them; identify them! Sometimes a member leaves because of circumstances not directly related to DKG; there was too much on their proverbial plate, so they reluctantly resigned. Several years have passed and their circumstances have changed, so find those members and reacquaint them to DKG.

Culture versus Structure This was a very interesting discussion in my membership training and one that I am planning to share at our Fall

Workshop in September. It is a reality check investigating the candid remarks of those who recently left DKG; what these women had to say will astound you.

Retention This, of course, is another area that needs to be addressed in our Chapters. New members are important, but they are more than just a number to be added to our Chapter head count; they need to be included, encouraged, groomed, and given a voice.

I am excited to share more of what I learned at SER membership workshop with you at Fall Workshop and over the biennium through the newsletter, emails, and face-to-face conversations. Please feel free to contact me concerning any membership issues and also those membership success stories.

I encourage you to attend the ALPHA GAMMA STATE Fall Leadership Workshop, September 11-12, at the Embassy Suites in Lexington. Looking forward to meeting you, but in the meantime check out the membership ideas at <https://www.dkg.org/category/committee/membership>.



White Roses

Ruby Jean Oliver McCoy, NU
October 31, 1931 to August 17, 2015

Fall Leadership Workshop Lunch Conversation



Chapter News

ALPHA—Louisville, KY

by Bonnie Fouts

ALPHA Chapter got off to a great start thanks to our wonderful secretary, Gwen Hardin. Mary Faye Carr was under the weather most of the summer but is recovering well from her recent laser back surgery. She is nearly a new woman! Gwen hosted two socials for ALPHA at the Comfy Cow where members and friends could simply visit and chat. Our new teacher contacts were also invited.

Beverly Westphal was fortunate enough to attend the Northwest Regional Conference and very much enjoyed her journey out west and into Canada as well as meeting many of our International sisters. We cannot wait to hear more about all of her adventures!



Counterclockwise from bottom left: Gwen Hardin, Mary Faye Carr, Ann Walls, Beverly Westphal, Bunny Nash, and Bonnie Cook Fouts

Six members attended the Fall Leadership Workshop in Lexington (pictured above). It was a wonderful experience and the venue was awesome. The Embassy Suites in Newtown Pike is a lovely hotel and we were grateful to our Bluegrass area hosts, BETA, OMICRON, PHI, PI, and ALPHA ALPHA Chapters.

In October, we toured the Home of the Innocents

in Louisville which we are supporting this year in addition to Schools for Africa and Early Educators. It's great to be in DKG!

GAMMA—Murray, KY

by Donna Whitfield

The fall meeting of Delta Kappa Gamma, Gamma Chapter was held September 19 in the Garden Room of Kenlake Hotel overlooking beautiful Kentucky Lake. Gamma President Donna Whitfield presided. Members were reminded to pay dues and note volunteer hours.



Two very deserving young ladies who are Elementary Education majors at Murray State University, planning to become teachers were awarded \$500.00 Grant-in-aid Recruitment Scholarships by the Chapter. Emily Mundt, from Prospect, Kentucky in Oldham County was present to receive her scholarship. Maggie Stenger, from Sturgis, Kentucky in Union County will meet with the Chapter at a later date.



The Chapter is currently working on two projects. Shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse are due in November and a Mission to Africa, Free the Girls, donations are to be given to Donna Whitfield by the first of October.

The next GAMMA Chapter meeting will be November 14 at Barkley Lodge with our new State President Pascal Bailey visiting with us.

ZETA -Northern KY

by Lucy Riffle

ZETA Chapter had its first meeting of this year on September 19th at the Fort Mitchell Country Club.

We had 34 sisters in attendance!! Membership chair June Madison discussed the new suggestions from International that she had been told about at the Fall Leadership Workshop. She had prospective member cards and passed them out to the sisters in attendance. At the end of the business meeting we had 16 prospective member's names turned in. The members then voted to accept these ladies if they are willing to join. We are sending them an invitation for Membership and will be having an Orientation meeting for them in October. Those who agree to join will be initiated in November.

ZETA members also brought items and names to make "new teacher" baskets. They will be delivered to these first year teachers by the sister who nominated them after the November meeting.

After the meeting and lunch, sister Jenny Tompkins gave a program on her summer trip to China. This was an educational trip through the University of Kentucky and was a chance to study the culture and educational systems in China. Jenny's presentation was very informative and we're so proud of her for being accepted to be part of this institute!!

Our publicity chair, Sally Nimmo sent an article to the "Recorder" newspapers about our Books and Bibs program. It was published with pictures in the Boone County Recorder on Thursday, October 1st. We're proud of the publicity our program, Chapter and DKG received.

UPSILON -Northern KY

by Priscilla Roberts

UPSILON Chapter Starts The Year with A Harvest Hoedown and A Cool Day at A.J. Jolly Park

"Welcome, everyone! Let's all sing a round of 'You Are My Sunshine' and then I would like for you to turn around and introduce yourself to 3 people, especially all of our guests, as we start our first meeting of the season. The sky may be overcast, but the weather is perfect, and the weatherman promises that the rain will hold off until later this evening. Now, let's meet, greet, and then we'll eat and have some fun!" stated Priscilla Roberts, UPSILON President. And so it was on Saturday, September 19 as members of the UPSILON Chapter, along with some members of their family, and 4 prospective new members joined in for an afternoon that proved to be quite delightful. The picnic table was loaded with delightful foods that members had provided, along with fried chicken that the Chapter bought. A total of 35 frolicked around the greens, enjoying the day, the fun, and trying to keep the geese chased away. You know that old adage, "Friends of a feather flock together!" really is true.

After the delightful luncheon, family, friends, and guests were divided into groups, and Beverly Sharp began teaching line dancing, while Rebecca Thomas gathered other members and some of their children to get involved in activities that provided a great deal of enjoyment. One member, after having been taught the dance steps remarked, "This is so much fun! I didn't think I could do it, but Bev did a great job teaching us."





Member Rebecca Thomas

to the group each time we meet. When Pam finished, ideas were exchanged and Priscilla Roberts shared several challenges to members in an effort to grow, be innovative, excited, and involved because WE ARE UPSILON!

After our November luncheon and book discussion, we will have an induction service, and 4 new teachers will become members. This is exciting, and we have set a goal of trying to gain 10 new members before our year is over in May. Incidentally, we are still honored to have Justina Graziani, now 93, among us as our oldest living member. Too, we gave congratulations and best wishes to Estelle Martin who just turned a young 80 this summer. Indeed, we are blessed to have such a wonderful group of ladies in our Chapter.

Moreover, we are very proud of Benita Lind, long time DKG member, who transferred her membership from California to UPSILON 4 years ago. Benita serves as Chairperson for the Governor Appointed Kentucky Statewide Independent Living Council. She has served in this capacity for 5 years, and her term will end April, 2016. We are very proud of her and this accomplishment.

Furthermore, other activities that are planned for this year include a breakfast at Bob Evan's and then a visit to the Taft Museum in Cincinnati, Ohio in January, 2016. Too, we are excited about joining with ZETA, our sister Chapter, in March as we will welcome Pascal Bailey, AGS President, to speak to us at the luncheon to be held at the Ft. Mitchell Country Club in Ft. Mitchell, KY.

To wind out the year, we plan a great big fun auction and luncheon at the Highland Country Club in Ft. Thomas and more details about this big event will follow!

In the meantime, we are staying actively engaged, getting members involved and sharing cares and concerns. Five of us, Karin Edgington, Karen Martin, Pam Manker, Linda Mauser, and Priscilla Roberts participated in the engaging SER meeting in Savannah, GA, this past summer, and the experience, the workshops, sights, and sharing with friends around the region was fantastic! ! In addition, Karin Edgington, Karen Martin, Shirley Miller, Pam Manker, Linda



The Geese

Before the afternoon was over, Pam Thomas, a member of 4 years, shared plans about our November meeting. Earlier in the year when the Executive and Planning Board met, Pam suggested that we have an International luncheon where each member would bring a favorite International dish, along with the recipe, and then she would compile the recipes into a book that could be sold as a fund raiser for our Grant-in-Aid funding. What a tremendous idea, and it is an activity and program that the Chapter has never done before. In addition, going along with this theme, she brought copies of the book, **I Am Malala**, for all members, to read before the November meeting. After the luncheon members will get into small groups and discussion will take place about the book. This ties into our World Fellowship program which Pam has coordinated for the past 2 years, and she has presented great information

Mausser, Beverly Sharp, Pam Thomas, Rebecca Thomas, and Priscilla Roberts attended the Fall Workshop in Lexington September 11, 12. We are looking forward to the State Convention in Pikeville in April.

To conclude, each year, as one of our service projects, members provide a great variety of teacher supplies to new and/or deserving teachers who can always use school supplies. This year, it was determined that the young teachers at Main Street Christian School in Campbell County would be the recipients of these items. Brenda Staggs, who has served as chairperson for service projects for over 15 years, and President Priscilla Roberts presented the supplies to the teachers on their first day of school, and Administrator and 1st Vice-President Laura Kalfas, Jennifer McCrann, Robin Hoskins, and Rachel Redden received them, gladly. All of these young teachers are members of our UPSILON Chapter.



As usual, our faithful, professional, fun-loving photographer, Sterling Staggs, provided all of the inviting pictures not only for

the teacher supply presentation, but also for our

“Harvest Hoedown.” We are most grateful for all of the memorable moments Sterling provides for us.

PHI –Danville/Harrodsburg, KY

by Susan Shewmaker

PHI Chapter is sponsoring an informational session for all certified educators from the Boyle, Burgin, Danville, Mercer, and KSD school systems on the Kentucky Teacher Retirement System. This event will be held on Thursday, October 29, 2015, at 5:30 PM, in the meeting room of the Mercer County Public Library.

The presenter will be from KTRS and will explain the retirement system in an understandable and systematic way through the use of a power point. The presenter will include the current status of the teacher retirement fund and current options for its future as well as how teachers may individually maximize their earnings and benefits through the retirement system.

There will also be an opportunity for questions about, and discussion of, any concerns members of the audience may have. Light refreshments will be provided by the members of PHI Chapter whose members are active in, or retired from, the public school systems in Boyle and Mercer counties.

The workshop is open to any teacher, male or female, active or retired, who is impacted by the choices made regarding the funding and future of KTRS.

Contact Susan Shewmaker (davidshewmaker@bellsouth.net) for additional information.

ALPHA BETA –LOUISVILLE, KY

by Brenda Logan

A familiar phrase to everyone is to begin with the end results in mind and that is exactly what the ALPHA BETA sisters did at their first meeting on August 3rd held at Harvey Browne Memorial Presbyterian Church. A big part of those results

is to support the community, so Chapter members began outreach by bringing school supplies for the Home of the Innocents, a long-time project supported by ALPHA BETA.

In order to involve all Chapter members, each person is part of one of the numerous working committees and has the opportunity to have voice in planning and decision-making as plans are reported out to the general membership. From Personal Growth to Professional Affairs to overall Hospitality to numerous other areas, plans are now solid for the year and each Committee shared information with the Membership. The Leadership saw a need to add an additional committee for the upcoming year. Since Membership is vital to the strength of the organization, the Chapter is adding a Strategic Action Plan Committee which is headed by long-time member Ann Hafling. That Committee will focus solely on Membership and has already developed specific steps for encouraging new members, as well as supporting current members as they balance a heavy schedule between work life and ALPHA BETA membership needs.

Coming together at monthly meetings offers the opportunity to engage with our sisters in many kinds of conversation that support the Chapter. But our President Diana Motsch is also aware of the need to socialize outside the Chapter meetings. She recently planned an outing for the five Louisville Chapters. The outing was during the Labor Day weekend.

Diana, Ruth Boone and Linda Jewell went to the Georgetown Drive-In Theater, a now novel expe-



rience. Ruth Boone from ALPHA BETA had “going to a drive-in” on her bucket list and Linda Jewell from XI Chapter had gone to the Georgetown Drive-In when she was young, and she wanted to renew her memories from the past! They saw the movie “Max” and even survived a rain shower.

Nikki Robison and Diana attended the Fall Leadership Workshop, which was held in Lexington, KY. They attended different sessions and brought back information for our Chapter. They were excited about many things, especially the new guidelines for accepting new members, which will be shared with our newly-formed Strategic Action Plan Committee. They expressed that the Workshop offered such a great opportunity to meet members from other Chapters across the state.



Based on volunteer hours collected from our members by Emily Pruett, we are an active group that supports many needs in the Louisville area. This is a measure of our own success. As we begin the new program year, we wish all Chapters great success as we move forward.

ALPHA EPSILON –RUSSELLVILLE, KY

by Judy Chick

ALPHA EPSILON Chapter met Saturday, August 22, 2015, in the Chandler’s School Media Center. President Sherrie Pryor welcomed everyone. She also blessed the delicious brunch provided by the members.

Jackie Powell gave the thought for the day. She shared an inspirational piece entitled, "Who's Setting Your Priorities," written by Glynnis Whitwer.

ALPHA EPSILON was delighted to have ALPHA GAMMA Immediate Past State President Karen Martin as the guest speaker. She shared some of her experiences as a DELTA KAPPA GAMMA member. She encouraged Chapters to place an emphasis on membership. She told everyone to continue to "Cherish Yesterday, Live for Today, and Dream for Tomorrow." President Pryor presented a gift of appreciation to Mrs. Martin.

President Pryor called the business session to order. Seventeen members and one guest were present.

ALPHA EPSILON had four members to recently retire from teaching. They were Maydeen Bailey, Becky Page, Paula Scott, and Ann Seidler. They received gifts from the Chapter.

President Pryor was proud to announce that two of our members had been chosen to serve on the State Communications Committee. They were Julie Cox and Carole Sindorf.

Members were encouraged to attend the ALPHA GAMMA State Fall Workshop which was to be held on Lexington, Kentucky, on September 11th and 12th.

ALPHA EPSILON looks forward to its next meeting which will be the annual Christmas bizarre.

ALPHA IOTA—CENTRAL CITY, KY

by Kay Turner

ALPHA IOTA met September 24, 2015, at the Early childhood Building, Airport Rd. Greenville, KY. With over 20 members present. Hosts for the occasion were: Jan Yonts, Julie Hansen, and Vicky Yonts.

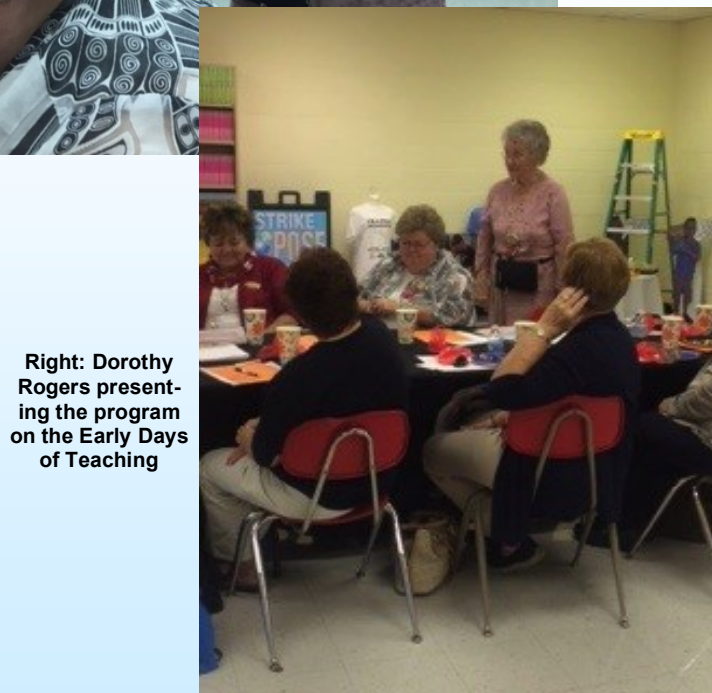
President Kay Turner welcomed members and gave a brief introduction to our newest member Vicki Yonts and her work with Early Childhood Education and the importance of getting a head start with Reading from Birth.

Past President Martha Rogers presented the Program along with Dorothy Martin on the "Early Days of Teaching".

Right:
Dorothy Martin,
President



Left: Dorothy
Rogers



Right: Dorothy
Rogers presenting
the program
on the Early Days
of Teaching

by Linda Jewell

by Jane Thompson

XI members held their fall meeting at the McMahon Fire Department's meeting hall and welcomed three new members!

- Stephanie Fields, Goal Clarity Coach at Noe Middle School
- Melinda Keiner-Rummel, 6th grade Math teacher at Shelby East Middle School
- Tiffany Dix, Math Teacher at Manual High School were initiated and welcomed to our chapter.

Following the initiation ceremony members shared their content expertise and latest trends in education. Sheila Renn and Holli Moore presented the latest changes in the pre-school curriculum in JCPs.

Cindy Atchison, librarian at Greathouse Elementary School shared a lovely book, ***Come a Tide by Kentucky*** author, George Ella Lyon.

Former Shelby East Middle School math teacher, Donna Whitis delighted all with her tips on how to engage students at the beginning of the school year.

Latonya Frazier and Zina Knight shared a Power-Point presentation about the optional and magnet programs in JCPs (Jefferson County Public Schools).

It was wonderful having our own members share what is happening in their classrooms and districts.

XI Chapter welcomes new members.



I would like to take this time to thank all of my DKG sisters who have taken the time to send me cards, emails, Facebook messages, and phone calls during my recent surgery. This was my third bout with the same cancer, and I am fairly certain this should be the last one.

During the first few weeks of recovery, I wondered how many of our DKG sisters are going through similar unexpected and difficult circumstances. I questioned how well do we keep up with our Reserve members and members with whom we have not communicated for a while. What about those in nursing homes who might have been moved to an area farther away due to types nursing care needed and family member decisions.

DKG means much to me as a professional nearing retirement and has meant much to me during my career. Your State Organization President, Pascal Bailey, feels the same way as I am sure you all do. In our conversations, Pascal and I have shared our thoughts. So, I am taking this opportunity to remind you of Pascal's passion to remember our Reserve nursing home members and aged membership before they get dropped from membership for non payment of dues.

So, please allow me to ask:

Are there members you or your Chapter have not communicated with for a while?

Are there members who haven't been to meetings lately that you or your Chapter have not checked on?

Do you or someone in your Chapter regularly visit or phone homebound members?

Are there members in your Chapter who might be going through illness, loss of a family member, loss of a job, or any other situation which can be tragic in the right circumstances?

I know what the support of my DKG sisters meant to me. I want to follow the good example set by them and make sure that I can answer the above questions in a positive way. Will you join me?