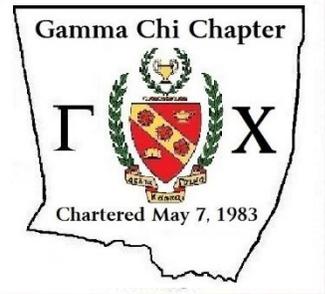




# Gamma Chi Newsletter

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International  
North Carolina State Organization  
Region III, Warren County



Volume XXXI, Issue 3

Good Friends! Good Work! Good Times!  
Gamma Chi Forever Strong!

January/February/March 2026

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



### Greetings Gamma Chi Sisters!

I would like to begin this message by thanking the Norlina group for a wonderful December meeting, as always. I hope everyone enjoyed the gift exchange and raffle as much as I did. There were so many terrific gifts given and exchanged that it truly did feel like Christmas. Santa and his elves really helped to set the mood. I was so proud of the creativity and talent that you ladies showed during the "Thinking Out of the Box" art exercise. Our speaker and NC DKG president, Janie Webb, gave a very inspirational message. We were so lucky that she was able to attend our meeting. Thanks to Nancy for offering the hospitality and warmth of her home for Janie's visit. I also want to thank you for your generosity in supporting each of our projects and causes. I know you all are giving from your hearts as well as your pocketbooks. Besides, none of us can stand to see any of our sisters (Loree) cry.

I think the presentation given by Danylu and Aimee about the new school coming to our county, Warren Young Explorers School (Warren YES), was very interesting and informative. It is our responsibility as educators, active or retired, to keep up with what is available for the students in our community. If at any time any of you find out about or are involved with any educational opportunities in our area, please keep us informed. We always ask for any new business at our meetings and our business is education. You may contact me before the meeting and I will include the information in my president's report. Even if we are retired, we should never be inactive.

Our NC DKG convention, April 17-19, will be here before we know it. Since it is fairly close by in New Bern, I hope many of you will be interested in attending. You have an opportunity to learn more about our organization and to meet and talk with other

*(President's Message - continued on Page 2)*



## INSIDE CONTENTS

Gamma Chi News.....	2
NC DKG News.....	3
DKG News .....	3
Mystery Member .....	4
Visions/Themes/Websites .....	4
Dates to Remember (International, NC DKG, Gamma Chi).....	4
Gamma Chi Executive Board and Chapter December Minutes .....	5-7
Member Prospect Cards .....	8



## MEETING NOTICE

Thursday, March 5, 2026

6:00 p.m. Gathering

6:15 p.m. Dinner



Littleton Baptist Church Fellowship Hall  
104 Mosby Ave., Littleton, NC 27850

Menu: soup, salad and dessert bar; Cost: \$15.00

(Make checks payable to *Laura Kearney*)

Cut-Off Date: **Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>**

(Note: you do not have to purchase dinner to attend the meeting. That is your choice.)

6:45 p.m. Program:

**The Warren County Farmers Market**

**Presented by Tamara Small, Market Manager**

7:15 p.m. Business Meeting

**Please respond to your Evite as soon**

**as possible and no later than February 28<sup>th</sup>!**

(The Littleton Group will need to bring items for the raffle.)



## BRING TO THE MEETING:

- ☞ Money to buy \$1 raffle tickets
- ☞ Prospect Cards to nominate worthy key women educators
- ☞ Contribution for the International project, **The GIRLS Fund**; to receive a tax deduction, make your check to UNICEF USA and on the memo line put: GIRLS Fund – NC Gamma Chi Chapter; see page 3 for more information
- ☞ If you would like to pick up some \$3.00 afghan tickets for sale, they will be available at the March meeting. Many thanks to those who have already picked up tickets. Ticket money is due at the May meeting, but if you would like to turn it in early, you may do so at the March meeting. The drawing for the afghan will be held at the May meeting. At that time, all sold ticket stubs, unsold tickets and money will be due.
- ☞ If you would like to support the convention project, please bring a teddy bear to donate to the local Emergency Medical Services, Fire and Police Departments and other organizations.



*(President's Message - continued from Page 1)*

outstanding women educators from across our state. Don't forget to bring your teddy bears to support the convention project to our March meeting. A little fuzzy friend to hug and hold may help a child through a terrible and frightening situation.

I look forward to seeing each of you in Littleton on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Fellowship is one of the most important foundations of our organization. We need each other's friendship and support. I love surrounding myself with such wonderful, intelligent, and caring women. Our friendships make us all stronger.

Good friends, Good works, Good times. Gamma Chi Forever Strong!

In sisterhood,

    
[Sheila Robertson](#)

**BIRTHDAY PRESENTS**

Members with January, February or March birthdays who attend the meeting will be recognized and will receive a present. **Don't miss your birthday meeting!!!**



**DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR CHILDREN'S BOOK(S)**



Last Christmas we donated books that were distributed by Santa at the Warren County Santa House, Courthouse Square. We will be continuing to collect books at each meeting this year in order to have enough books to donate this year.

Not only do we need pre-school books, but we also need books for older children. The books do not need to be Christmas books, and books for any age through about fifth grade are perfect!

Please remember to bring a book(s) to our March meeting. A good source of books is Ollie's in Henderson. Also, bringing books can increase your score as you work towards your Member Excellence award for this year. To view the Member Excellence award form, click [here](#).

Thank you in advance.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

*by Debra Clayton, Treasurer*



At the December meeting, \$59.00 was collected from the meeting raffle; this will be used to help our local libraries and the NC DKG Educational Foundation. Other monies received were \$126.00 for the afghan raffle, \$141.00 for World Fellowship, and \$385 for the Scholarship Fund. An additional \$3,000.00 was received from the Blankenship family for the Scholarship Fund in memory of their mother, Nancy Blankenship.

Please remember that March is our usual time for contributions for the GIRLS Fund. To receive a tax deduction, make your check to UNICEF USA and on the memo line put: GIRLS Fund – NC Gamma Chi Chapter.

At the March meeting when paying by check, please write separate checks with the correct amount for the meal, The GIRLS Fund, etc. It will make the bookkeeping so much easier!

**COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING COMMITTEE'S REPORT**

*by Nancy Tunstall, Communications & Marketing Committee Chair*



The January/February issue of [DKG NEWS](#) is now available online for members. The lead article of the January/February 2026 issue of *DKG News* is a listing of the 2026-2028 International nominees to be voted on at the 2026 International Convention to be held June 30 - July 4 at the Gaylord Rockies in Aurora, Colorado. Also, this issue contains a listing of the 2026 World Fellowship recipients among other articles.

Please check out the updated Gamma Chi website by clicking <http://deltakappagamma.org/NC-gammachi/>. View the home page and look under the calendar to see who is having a birthday. Also, important DKG events are listed in the calendar for the entire year. The updated Gamma Chi Yearbook has been posted. Because of the personal information, the picture directory is not posted. Anyone not receiving her copy by email should request a copy from [Nancy Tunstall](#).

Our committee would like to encourage everyone, especially committee chairs, to submit news and/or articles to [Nancy Tunstall](#), editor, for publication in the next *Gamma Chi Newsletter*. The submission deadline for the next newsletter will be **April 17**.

**HOSPITALITY & SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE'S REPORT**

*by Debra Clayton, Hospitality and Social Affairs Committee Chair*



Meal costs are to be paid at each meeting upon arrival. Members who are unable to attend after responding "yes" to their invite must inform Communications &

Marketing Chair [Nancy Tunstall](#) by the cut-off date of **Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>**. When this is not done, members will be expected to pay for the meal. Please send your payment by an attending member or have a friend pay for your meal (she could get you a carry-out meal if so desired). **The money is needed the night of the meeting so the caterer can be paid in full.** Also, you are welcome to bring prospective members as guests, but you will be responsible for paying for their meals. Thank you in advance.



**NOW IS THE TIME TO REGISTER  
FOR THE NC DKG CONVENTION**



Registration is open for the 2026 NC DKG Convention scheduled for April 17-19 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel New Bern Riverfront, pictured here. It is approximately a 2½ hour drive from

Warren County. Registration for the convention is being done online using the Google Form found by clicking [here](#). The form is very simple to fill out. Your Registration Invoice will then be sent to the email address that you provided. You will need to print out a copy of it.

The chapter plans to pay the registration and hotel fees for the attendees. **Here are the directions for those who plan to attend the convention:**

- Fill out the Google [registration form](#) and submit it. (Note: we are in Region III.) You will need to know the year you were inducted (the year is in your picture directory or email [Nancy Tunstall](#) to find out). Please leave the donations at zero since each member has already contributed \$3.00 to the Headquarters Fund (if you wish to make a further contribution, you may do so at the convention); as a chapter we have already contributed to the NC DKG Educational Foundation and we will collect Teddy Bears at our March meeting to support the convention project. Click the *Mail Check* option. **Note:** this year registration will include the meals—Friday, hors d’oeuvres; Saturday, breakfast, lunch, afternoon snack, and banquet; and Sunday, brunch.
- Bring your printed Registration Invoice to the March meeting.
- At the meeting, give your registration invoice to Treasurer Debra Clayton so that she can write one check to cover all the registrations.
- The first nine members to do so will be ensured a room. We will use Gamma Chi Professional Development grants to cover the hotel and registration expenses.

We hope that you will be among the members who attend the convention!

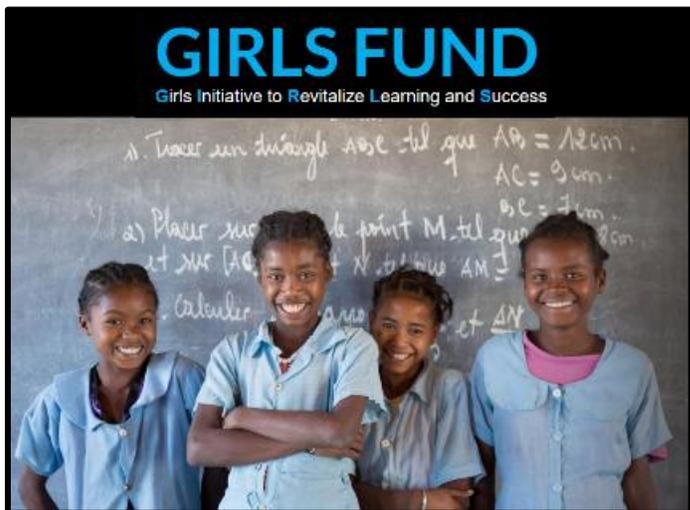
**2026 NC DKG CONVENTION PROJECT**



The Convention Project this year is a “Beary” important one! Chapters and members attending our convention are asked to bring teddy bears to donate to the local Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Fire and Police Departments, and other organizations. These organizations will be

distributing the teddy bears to children who experience a crisis or trauma situation. Even if you are not planning to attend the convention, please bring a teddy bear to the March meeting and it will be carried to the convention.

**THE GIRLS FUND**



Partnered with UNICEF USA since 1997, DKG is currently supporting educational access for girls in Africa through UNICEF’s “Girls Initiative to Revitalize Learning and Success” (GIRLS) Fund.

Previously DKG supported the UNICEF Schools for Africa program for 12 years, raising over **\$600,000** to provide education to children in 21 priority countries. DKG has also supported [UNICEF education and literacy](#) programs in Central America, Gambia and Afghanistan, including raising over **\$200,000** for programs in Afghanistan.

Launched in response to the setbacks caused by COVID-19, the **GIRLS Fund** works to bolster girls' education in Africa. This fund provides flexible financial support to address critical barriers to girls' education and strengthen global expertise in this field. By focusing on secondary education, the **GIRLS Fund** aims to help all girls *complete their schooling, acquire essential life skills, and challenge harmful social norms.*

The **GIRLS Fund** addresses several key areas to improve girls' education. These aim to better understand and overcome barriers faced by out-of-school girls, expand access through various interventions, and improve learning pathways and quality of education. Additionally, the GIRLS Fund ensures schools provide a supportive environment for girls, addressing their overall well-being through health and nutrition services. The GIRLS Fund also drives advocacy and leadership, ensuring that governments and stakeholders are committed to accelerating educational outcomes for girls.

The initiative aims to:

- 1) **get a better understanding** of the current barriers and bottlenecks facing girls in Africa;
- 2) **address harmful social norms** that impede prosperity of girls;
- 3) **deploy technology** to accelerate results in girls’ education;
- 4) **mount global advocacy and leadership** through a Global Platform; and
- 5) **develop a Technical Advisory Panel (TAP)** to tap into expertise on gender equality and women’s empowerment and change the trajectory of learning and earning outcomes for girls and young women.

*Together, we can guarantee the next generation a better life than the last.*

The March meeting is our annual designated meeting to

collect monies for this worthy project. **You can make a difference!** Please donate generously to help transform families, communities, and perhaps countries. Your gift of education is the chance of a better life. For a tax deductible donation, make your check payable to *UNICEF USA* and on the memo line put: *GIRLS, DKG – NC Gamma Chi Chapter*.

**MYSTERY MEMBER**

by Nancy Tunstall, Editor



Here is the hint for this newsletter’s mystery member. *She started her life in Pittsburgh, PA where she had a love of music from an early age. She took flute and piano lessons for years. She began her career as an elementary teacher. After some years of musical study, she became the director of pre-school and early grades music at the Raleigh Conservatory of Music. Later she opened her own music studio where she taught mom & tot classes, group lessons for children up to age seven, plus piano, flute and voice to teens as well. She and her staff averaged 300 students per semester for 16 years until moving to Lake Gaston. Who is she?*

The name of our mystery member will be revealed at the meeting. Please complete your biographical sketch for an opportunity to be our Mystery Member. Contact [Nancy Tunstall](#) for information about completing your biographical sketch.

**DKG MISSION STATEMENT**  
**The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education**

**2025-2027 NC DKG THEME**  
*Leading with GRIT*  
*Grace Responsibility Integrity Tenacity*

**2024-2026 GAMMA CHI THEME**  
*Good Friends! Good Work! Good Times!*  
*Gamma Chi Forever Strong!*

**DKG VISION STATEMENT**  
*Leading Women Educators*  
*Impacting Education Worldwide*

**NC DKG VISION (VIEW) STATEMENT**  
*Voices of Influence Empowering*  
*North Carolina Women Educators*



**DATES TO REMEMBER—DKG INTERNATIONAL**

March 1	Deadline to submit to the <i>Bulletin: Journal</i>
March 1	DKGIEF project applications due
March 8-11	National Legislative Seminar (NLS), Old Town Alexandria, Virginia
May 1	Deadline for DKGIEF Cornet Individual Professional Development Awards (other deadline: November 1)
May 11	DKG’s Founders Day (DKG will be 97!)
May 15	New chapter officers report due
May 15	Deadline to submit to the <i>Bulletin: Journal</i>
June 30 - July 4	DKG International Convention, Gaylord Rockies, Aurora, Colorado
<b>2028</b>	
July 4-8	DKG International Convention, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**DATES TO REMEMBER—NC DKG**

March 1	ROSE, Golden Key, Rising Star, Beginning Teacher and Communications Excellence forms due
March 21	Spotlight on Talent, Edgecombe CC
April 17-19	NC DKG Convention, New Bern, North Carolina (Region II host)
May 1	Deadline to submit to the <i>NC DKG News</i>

**DATES TO REMEMBER—GAMMA CHI**

March 5	<b>3rd Gamma Chi Meeting</b> , Littleton Baptist Church. Littleton (Littleton Group hostesses)
April 17	Deadline to submit to the <i>Gamma Chi Newsletter</i>
May 7	Gamma Chi’s Founders Day (we’ll be 43!)
May 14	<b>4th Gamma Chi Meeting</b> , St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Ridgeway (St. Paul’s Group hostesses)
May 14	Dues due to Debra Clayton (\$85 Active, \$45 Reserve)

**Check them out often!**  
**GAMMA CHI WEBSITE:**  
<http://deltakappagamma.org/NC-gammachi/>  
**NC DKG WEBSITE:**  
<http://www.ncdkg.org/>  
**DKG WEBSITE:**  
<http://www.dkg.org/>

Please submit events, celebrations, recognitions and news to:  
**Editor/Webmaster:** [Nancy Tunstall](#)



## GAMMA CHI EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 4, 2025

The Gamma Chi Chapter Executive Board convened on December 4, 2025, at the Wise Baptist Church Fellowship Hall with President Sheila Robertson presiding. After calling the meeting to order, she discussed having a joint meeting with the Alpha Kappa members at the March 2026 Gamma Chi Meeting. Alpha Kappa, serving Halifax and Northampton Counties, is a very small chapter consisting of only five members. Sharon Frazier, who visited us at our September meeting, is the chapter president. Sharon requested that we have a joint meeting when we meet in Littleton since that would be very convenient for her members to attend. There is a possibility of their chapter merging with our chapter at some point in the future. After discussion, it was decided that an invitation will be extended to Alpha Kappa members to attend the March 2026 Gamma Chi meeting in Littleton. It was also decided that the chapter would pay for the meals of any attendees.

President Robertson adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Evelyn Hall, Recording Secretary

**Members present:** Dr. Sylvia Alston, Betsy Cark, Debra Clayton, Gail Coleman, Evelyn Hall, Loree Harris, Mary Catherine Harris, Norma Retzlaff, Sheila Robertson, and Nancy Tunstall

Respectfully submitted,  
Evelyn Hall, Recording Secretary

## **GAMMA CHI CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 4, 2025**

The Gamma Chi Chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, hosted by the Norlina Group, met at Wise Baptist Church Fellowship Hall on December 4, 2025. Members socialized and took care of various financial responsibilities prior to the tasty meal. President Robertson distributed small jars with a handcrafted poinsettia design on the lid and filled with sweet treats as a holiday gift to attendees. Mary Catherine Harris offered a blessing before dinner was served. The Women of Wise Baptist Church catered a dinner of chicken with mushroom sauce, cranberry salad, string beans, deviled eggs, rolls, desserts, and beverages. Members gave them an appreciative round of applause for the delicious dinner.

After dinner, entertainment was provided by members Diane Colin on flute and Sallye Duncan on the keyboard. The talented duo presented a Christmas medley of beautiful selections and invited members and guests to sing along on the last selection. President Robertson presented each one with a rose in appreciation of the musical program.

Following the musical interlude, President Sheila Robertson introduced guest speaker Janie Webb who currently serves as NC DKG President. Webb brought greetings from the state organization and encouraged members to make plans to attend the upcoming state convention in April 2026 in New Bern. She talked about her selected biennium theme of "Leading with GRIT...Grace, Responsibility, Integrity, and Tenacity" and the need to strengthen leadership skills in members. She shared that a woman alone has power, but women together have impact. After the remarks, Robertson presented Webb with a Gamma Chi bag, poinsettia, and a card stating that the chapter was donating to the NC DKG Educational Foundation in her honor.

More fun ensued with the "Nice Santa" exchange of holiday gifts brought by the members. A jingling of Christmas bells was heard, signaling the approach and entrance of Santa Claus (Steve Young). Santa, along with some jolly helpers, distributed a gift to each member and wished everyone a Merry Christmas before taking his leave.

President Robertson called the meeting to order. Recording Secretary Evelyn Hall stated that the 26 members present constituted a quorum. There were also two guests in attendance. The minutes of the September meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter. Treasurer Debra Clayton reported a checking account balance of \$3,664.40 and a savings account balance of \$5,057.84. The report was approved.

Corresponding Secretary Gail Coleman had sent a get well card to member Nancy Tunstall as she heals from a recent ankle sprain. Nancy Tunstall shared correspondence from Richard Blankenship and reported the receipt of the Blankenship Family's annual donation of \$3,000.00 in honor of Richard and Catherine's mother Nancy Blankenship to Gamma Chi's Scholarship Fund.

President Robertson recognized October, November, and December birthdays with a gift of a natural pink quartz stone heart to place in your pocket or purse to help charge your energy. She also announced that the Mystery Member is reserve member Dr. Janis Meek.

Sheila Robertson's President's Report encouraged members to plan to attend and be involved in the NC DKG Convention in New Bern on April 17 – 19, 2026. She recognized Diane Colin as a recent grant recipient for funding to purchase guitars for her students, and congratulated Heather Sharp on her recognition for teaching excellence at a recent Exceptional Children's gathering. Lastly, she welcomed LeighAnn Beam as a guest to the meeting. Beam is an Early Literacy Specialist with Warren County Schools.

Beginning Teacher Support Chair Norma Retzlaff reported that the chapter prepared and delivered gift bags to 11 new teachers in the Warren County Schools system during American Education Week in November. She also indicated that additional school supplies are available for incoming teachers as more new employees are hired.

Membership Chair Dr. Sylvia Alston made a motion to accept the resignation of Emmy Coleman as she has recently moved to Texas. The motion was approved.

Nominations Committee Chair Sara Council indicated she recently emailed current officers to encourage continued service as leaders in the next biennium. The goal is to present a slate of officers at the March 2026 meeting.

Scholarship Committee Chair Betsy Clark encouraged members pursuing graduate studies to apply for the Gamma Chi Scholarship, as well as those offered by NC DKG and DKG. Deadlines are January 19 for Gamma Chi and February 1 for NC DKG and DKG. She also encouraged qualified non-members to apply for the Gamma Chi Grant-in-Aid awards with a deadline of January 19. Finally, she encouraged members who had not already done so to complete contribution forms to honor or memorialize someone with a contribution to the scholarship fund. Completed forms should be directed to Debra Clayton, Treasurer. Chair Clark reminded members that Gamma Chi has increased grant awards and scholarships from \$500 to \$1,000.

World Fellowship Representative Loree Harris joyfully announced that members contributed \$140.00 to the World Fellowship Fund.

Afghan Committee Chair Danylu Hundley reported \$126.00 collected from raffle ticket sales.

President Robertson asked for reports on sick and reserve members. Donna Liles, our former member, who is experiencing some health challenges, was mentioned.

In unfinished business, Warren Young Explorers School (YES) Founding Board members Aimee Anderson Cooper and Danylu Hundley provided an update on the school's progress. They distributed marketing handouts and reminded everyone that the school will be opening in fall 2026, initially serving grades K-6. Future plans call for expanding to K-12 over time.

During new business, Nancy Tunstall brought up the 2026 NC DKG Convention April 17-19 in New Bern. She suggested members bring a donation of newly purchased or handmade teddy bears to the March meeting to support the convention project. The teddy bears will be donated to local Emergency Medical Services departments who will distribute them to children experiencing a crisis or trauma situation. She asked for a show of hands of those planning to attend (8 responded) and suggested reserving at least three rooms and that Gamma Chi Professional Development grants be used to help with registration, room, and gas costs. She encouraged members to present a workshop at the convention and noted that the proposal deadline, via Google form, is February 14.

President Robertson adjourned the meeting after wishing a happy holiday season to all in attendance.

Danylu Hundley and Norlina group members conducted the raffle and distributed numerous gifts to fortunate ticket holders.

Respectfully submitted,  
Evelyn Hall, Recording Secretary

**Active Members Present:** Teresa Abbott, Dr. Sylvia Alston, Crystal Brantley, Melanie Burnette, Earlene Clanton, Betsy Clark, Debra Clayton, Gail Coleman, Diane Colin, Aimee Anderson Cooper, Sara Council, Sallye Duncan, Evelyn Hall, Linda Hall, Loree Harris, Mary Catherine Harris, Danylu Hundley, Katy Jones, Renee Mizelle, Norma Retzlaff, Sheila Robertson, Heather Sharp, Rachel Smith, Nancy Tunstall, and Patricia Williamson

**Active Members Absent:** Kirby Alston, Ginny Bernard, Diana Bobbitt, Katrinka Brewer, Brooke Callahan, Elaine Coleman, Jill Coleman, Robin Edwards, Brenda Holloman, Laura Kearney, Jenny O'Meara, Chris Skinner, and Kathy Stewart

**Honorary Member Present:** Josephine Myrick

**Guests Present:** Janie Webb and LeighAnn Beam

## DKG Prospect Card

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

## DKG Prospect Card

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_