

Gamma Chi Newsletter

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

North Carolina State Organization

Region III, Warren County



Volume XXVI, Issue 5

April – June 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Gamma Chi Sisters!



Happy Spring! Despite the swirling pollen that we are currently experiencing, I hope 2021 is continuing to be a time of rebirth and joy in your lives. For those of you who have chosen vaccination, I hope your experience with the process has been positive. I'm so thankful that I experienced only minimal side effects. As teachers, we are often also researchers, and I found a lesson for all of us as I sought more details on the technology behind the science of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. Katalin Karikó, a researcher and college professor who moved from Hungary to the USA with her family, and little else in 1985, is one of the scientists responsible for the technology behind the shots. Her biography indicates she suffered many initial rejections of her work, and she overcame cancer and a career demotion before her ultimate success. She never gave up—she worked tirelessly for years, believing in herself despite the setbacks. You, too, are working and giving of yourselves, for rewards that may not be realized for many years to come.

The last few weeks have brought many students and educators back into our schools, and buses are again traveling along our roads. We send our thoughts and well wishes to those of you navigating this new environment. I also remain encouraged that we may be able to return to a face-to-face meeting pattern format in the fall, although our zoom meetings have afforded us the opportunity to successfully gather together virtually. We will be seeking your input on ways that we can meet safely in the future and welcome all your thoughts and ideas as we plan. I have truly missed our in-person gatherings.

Finally, I'm looking forward to our NC DKG Convention to be held virtually from April 23-25. I'm so excited that more members than ever are planning to attend and participate in this **Celebration of NC DKG: Past, Present, and Future**. Lisa Bender has been selected to participate in the special Saturday afternoon "spa" session at the convention. The "Rejuvenating the Leader Within for Inspiring the Leader in Others," presented by the Leadership Development Committee, will take place on Saturday afternoon. I know that Lisa will have ideas to bring to us after her experience.

Looking forward to sharing time with everyone on Saturday, May 1 at 10 am.

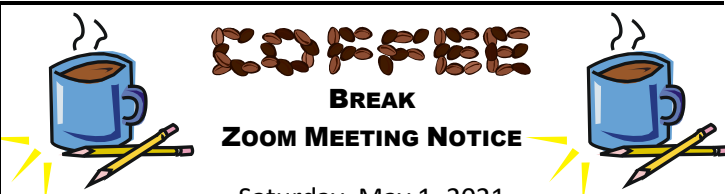
In sisterhood,

Evelyn Hall

[Evelyn Hall](#)

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BREAK

Zoom Meeting Notice

Saturday, May 1, 2021
10:00 a.m.

Location: in the comfort of your own home!

Join our Zoom Meeting

<https://ecps.zoom.us/j/85924050856>

If no built in microphone, call in

Dial +1 929 205 6099

When prompted, enter the Meeting ID: 859 2405 0856
and follow directions.

(Note: Phone needed only if your computer doesn't have a microphone; calls are long distance. No invite will be sent, but an email with the link will be sent as a reminder on Friday, April 30th)



WHAT TO EXPECT AT THIS MEETING:

- ❖ Presentation of grants-in-aid to recipients
- ❖ Celebrating our accomplishments at the 2021 NC DKG Virtual Convention
- ❖ Gamma Chi business

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR US?

Thanks so much to everyone attending our March 13th Zoom meeting. Also, thanks to Jenny O'Meara for facilitating the meeting. It was so good to come together in fellowship once more although we had a slim crowd due to prior commitments of many of our members. We hope more of you will be able to attend our May 1 Zoom meeting.

As more and more of our members are receiving their COVID-19 vaccinations, we are hoping that this will be our last Zoom meeting. Please be prepared to express your views on when you feel it will be safe to begin meeting in-person once more. So many of us miss the personal contact we have at our regular meetings.

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Shirley White, Treasurer



Dues for the 2021-2022 fiscal year will be due no later than June 30. The amount should remain \$85.00 for active members and \$45.00 for reserve members. Any questions can be directed to our treasurer, [Shirley White](#). No one took advantage of the payment plan so the entire amount of dues will be due on May 30th in order to give me time to process the payments and complete the paper work.

Many thanks to all the members who have already sent me their dues. The payment may be sent in at any time, preferably sooner rather than later. The checks should be made out to Gamma Chi-DKG and should be sent to Shirley White at 1957 US Highway 1 N, Norlina, NC 27563. Your cooperation and timely payment of dues will make my job so much easier!

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING REPORT

by Nancy Tunstall, Communications & Marketing Committee Chair



The March/April issue of *DKG News* is online. Click [here](#) to either open the flipbook or download the pdf file. ***This is a digital-only issue and will not be mailed to members.*** Members no longer receive this publication by mail. It is released every other month. When it is available online, you will be notified.

Please check out the Gamma Chi website by clicking <http://deltakappagamma.org/NC-gammachi/>. Under the calendar on the home page, check to see who is having a birthday. Also, important DKG events are listed in the calendar for the entire year.

Our committee would like to encourage everyone, especially committee chairs, to submit news and/or articles to [Nancy Tunstall](#) for publication in the next *Gamma Chi Newsletter*.

GAMMA CHI CHAPTER 2021 GRANT-IN-AID RECIPIENTS

by Betsy Clark, Scholarship Committee Chair

Our chapter should be proud of the selections they made for our 2021 grant-in-aid recipients. The following will receive Gamma Chi Nancy Blankenship Grants-in-Aid: Ellen Denning, Faith Heisler, Heidi Labra-Franco, and Hailey Stroud. Mila Alston will receive a Gamma Chi Josephine Myrick Grant-in-Aid.

Each of the recipients renewed her grant from last year. They will be awarded their grants-in-aid at the upcoming meeting. The following is an update on each recipient. Please feel free to offer words of encouragement to these young women. You may want to send them a congratulatory email. Their names contain their email address link.

[Mila Jovon Alston](#): Mila is continuing her graduate studies in Communication Sciences Disorders at North Carolina Central University. Her goal is to become a speech clinician, a vocation that requires a master's degree. As a clinician, Mila will help clients reach IEP goals and become confident in their communication skills.



[Ellen Denning](#): Ellen will graduate in 2022 after a three-year undergraduate career at North Carolina State University. She would like to work in low-income areas like Warren County and plans to return to Warren County at some point in her teaching career.

[Faith Heisler](#): Faith will enter her third year at North Carolina A & T University in the fall. She is pursuing an undergraduate degree in psychology. Upon completion of her degree, Faith plans to enter graduate school at the University of North Carolina Greensboro in the school's prestigious school counseling program.



[Heidi Labra-Franco](#): Heidi is a rising sophomore at North Carolina State University. She wishes to return to Warren County to teach high school mathematics. Her goal as an educator is to teach others to live.

[Hailey Stroud](#): Hailey will be a junior at Barton College in the fall. She is more determined than ever to become an elementary teacher. Her goal is to help change the lives of children in need of a champion.



GAMMA CHI TO BE WELL-REPRESENTED AT THE 2021 NC DKG VIRTUAL CONVENTION

So far nine Gamma Chi members have registered for the 2021 NC DKG Virtual Convention scheduled for April 23-25. They have already received their convention packet containing, among other things, a **2021 COVID-19 SAFETY NET**. It contained a balloon to help **BLOW** the COVID-19 blues away, gum to **STICK** together always, a life saver to practice **SAFETY** first in a pandemic, a mint to realize you are **MINT** to succeed, a puzzle piece to put all the **PIECES** together, Smarties candy to use your **SMARTS** to solve problems, a Starburst candy to take time to **SHINE**, a bee sticker to "bee" **POSITIVE**, and a Tootsie Roll candy to **ROLL** with the punches. This **SAFETY NET** can be enjoyed throughout the convention and be a reminder that we are together in spirit in spite of this pandemic!

The theme for the convention will be ***Celebrating NC DKG: Past, Present, and Future***. The virtual platform will allow the convention to reach more members and will kick off on Tues-

day, April 20, 2021. Each day that week will feature virtual “tours,” recorded showcases, zooms, and activities around the state that all members can enjoy at any time. These will continue through the weekend and be available later as well. Some of the events available to all members include the Ceremony of Remembrance, Chapter Presidents Recognition, Regional Directors Recognition, the Virtual Marketplace and Virtual Tours of Asheville and the surrounding areas. Please check the [NC DKG website](#) for more information.

The actual convention, for which members will need to register, will begin on Friday evening. That event will feature the presentation of the Founders Award.

NEW THIS CONVENTION: VIRTUAL MARKETPLACE

In place of a vendor area at an in-person convention, the 2021 NC DKG convention will feature a Virtual Marketplace.

The Virtual Marketplace will allow members and guests to donate to the convention project and the “Pass the House” to support Headquarters, bid on “Leadership Baskets” and an NC DKG Educational Foundation auction item, and shop chapter fundraising products.

The Virtual Marketplace will be open April 23 until April 30.

WHY MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



Have you ever pondered why your membership in Delta Kappa Gamma matters? Our vision statement clearly defines why our membership matters: ***Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide.***

Annie Webb Blanton believed in the power of education, and members across the world are impacting the lives of students today around the world.

DKG believes in our members because we provide scholarships or grants to further their personal educations on the chapter, state, and international levels. International and state organizations created foundations to provide money for our members and non-members to attend conferences, purchase resources for classrooms and work on advanced degrees and certifications. Members in DKG donate and fundraise to support these worthy programs.

Another focus of the Society is on Early Career Educators. Chapters around the globe encourage beginning teachers by providing notes of encouragement, treats, school supplies and money to these young educators. Yes, members are impacting students around the globe by supporting and mentoring early career educators.

Since 2010, DKG has been supporting Schools for Africa by raising awareness of the needs of children in Africa. Members provide programs and raise money to send to this worthy cause. Caring members are encouraging students we have never met but are creating a better environment for others.

(Taken from the [DKGSI Blog](#), January 19, 2021.)

HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT SOME MEMBER BENEFITS?



Benefits, benefits, benefits! Yes, Delta Kappa Gamma offers benefits to YOU. Sign in to www.dkg.org; under “About Us,” select “How to Become a Member” and then choose benefits, discounts, or insurance benefits to find a list of many opportunities offered through Delta Kappa Gamma.

Here are a few member benefits under insurance:

- Cancer plans
- Travel Insurance
- Accident Insurance
- Long-Term Care
- Pet Insurance
- Professional Liability Insurance
- Officers & Directors Insurance
- Liability Insurance
- Dental Insurance

Partnerships with Boon-Chapman, Dick Carr and Associates, and AIM Insurance make these insurance benefits possible for you.

What about discounts? Discounts of 30-60% off on hearing aids are available through TruHearing. Capella University offers 10% tuition discount and a waiver on the application fee.

When you and your family and friends shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the DKG International Educators Foundation will receive 0.5% of the purchase price. This supports such funds as world fellowship, scholarships and other work of the Foundation.

Discounted travel through Go Ahead Tours is also an opportunity for you, your family, or your friends. Watch for upcoming news on a trip that will follow the 2022 International Convention in New Orleans.

(Taken from the [DKGSI Blog](#), April 5, 2021)

EVERYONE MENTORS BY THE WAY WE INTERACT WITH NEW MEMBERS



Imagine a new member walking alone into a room for her first DKG chapter meeting.

First impressions will

determine how that new member feels. How quickly you show hospitality when she arrives at the meeting shows her the focus of the group. Are you so involved with catching up with old friends that you do not even notice her? Do you stop to introduce yourself, encourage the new member to come sit with your group, and involve her in the conversation? Little acts of kindness can put her at ease and make her feel a part of the group. This is one small way to mentor.

All members can be mentors through actions and deeds. This is why it is important that everyone is willing to invest time and energy in the new member and take a strong interest in the success of the chapter/Society. As the new member shares her interests and passions through conversation, the chapter president can begin to involve her in committee work and chapter projects to help her have a sense of belonging and purpose in the chapter. Recognizing the leadership potential of new members gets them involved and keeps them active. Most importantly, the embracing of new members by DKG sisters and the recognition of their individual strengths in the Gamma Chi Chapter gives them value in the Society.

(Taken from the [DKGSI Blog](#), February 23, 2021.)

DKG MISSION STATEMENT

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

2020-2022 INTERNATIONAL THEME

*DKG: Leading Women Educators
Impacting Education Worldwide*

2019-2021 NC DKG THEME

Ready. Set. GROW!

2020-2022 GAMMA CHI THEME

GROW with Gamma Chi!

DKG VISION STATEMENT

*Leading Women Educators
Impacting Education Worldwide*

NC DKG Vision (VIEW)

*Voices of Influence Empowering
North Carolina Women Educators*

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/>

DATES TO REMEMBER—DKG INTERNATIONAL

May 1	Deadline for applications for Lucile Cornetet Individual Professional Development Awards (other deadlines: February 1 & September 1)
May 11	DKG's Founders Day (DKG will be 92!)
May 15	Deadline to submit to the <i>Bulletin: Journal</i>
July 7-10	International Conference, Portland, OR
July 21-24	International Conference, San Antonio, TX
2022	
July 12-16	DKG International Convention, New Orleans, Louisiana

DATES TO REMEMBER—NC DKG

Noon,	
April 19	NC DKG Convention registration deadline
April 23-25	NC DKG Virtual Convention
May 1	Deadline to submit to the <i>NC DKG News</i>
April 29-May 1, 2022	NC DKG Convention, Asheville, NC
April 28-30, 2023	NC DKG Convention, Greenville, NC

DATES TO REMEMBER—GAMMA CHI

May 1	Gamma Chi Zoom Meeting, 10:00 a.m.
May 7	Gamma Chi's Founders Day (we'll be 38!)
May 30	Dues due to Shirley White (\$85 Active, \$45 Reserve); see page 2

Please submit events, celebrations, recognitions and news to:

Editor/Webmaster: Nancy Tunstall
Contact: nancytunstall@gmail.com / 252-456-2051 (h)



GAMMA CHI CHAPTER MINUTES – MARCH 13, 2021

The Gamma Chi Chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International met virtually on March 13, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

President Evelyn Hall began the zoom session with discussion around holding the May meeting in-person versus through zoom. No decision was made.

President Hall called the meeting to order. Mary Catherine Harris shared inspiration through poetry. There were only 17 members present which did not constitute a quorum, but the meeting continued with zoom recording it, so that other members could join after the meeting if needed. An eighteenth member joined shortly after the meeting started, which gave the group a quorum before any votes were held.

Minutes from the last meeting were shared, but a correction to the checking account was noted. It should've read \$4,342.97 instead of \$4,312.97 in the minutes from the last meeting. The minutes stand as corrected.

Shirley White shared the treasurer's report. The beginning checking account balance was \$4,342.97 and the ending balance was \$3,555.92. The savings account beginning balance was \$7,700.52 and ended with a balance of \$7,705.89. The treasurer shared that dues are due to Shirley White by May 30th. Shirley noted that we received thank you letters from DKG International for our contributions to the Emergency Fund, Scholarship Fund, and Educational Fund. The chapter gave a contribution in Shirley's honor for her 50 years of service, and she shared her thanks for that. That concluded the treasurer's report.

The corresponding secretary, Lisa Bender, gave her report. She did not have anything to share at this time.

President Hall extended congratulations to Kay Beaver's Mom for her 100th birthday. She also extended congratulations to Diane Colin who was recognized as the Bright Ideas Tar Heel Teacher of the week. President Hall shared that Aimee Cooper's son is doing exceptionally well at UNC, and that he is writing for *The Daily Tar Heel*. Aimee was recognized again because she recently got married. Shirley White has sent her a card from the group. No other recognitions were shared.

President Hall shared that we submitted our Necrology Report with Harriett Faulkner's name on that report for last year. The Chapter Achievement form was submitted. We accumulated 575 points as a chapter, and the chapter qualified for the Superior Achievement level. The chapter nominated Dr. Mandy Cohen for the Founder's Award, Sylvia Alston for the Golden Key Award, and Jenny O'Meara for the Rising Star Award. President Hall shared that the state convention will be held virtually, and that it will be in April.

Nancy Tunstall shared the Beginning Teacher Support Committee report for Norma Retzlaff. The Beginning Teacher Support Committee hasn't been able to put together the New Teacher's Bag Project, but there are 20-25 beginning teachers that the committee will soon put bags together for. Jackie Hargrove, Coordinator of ILT/Professional Development, requested hand sanitizer to be included in those bags. Suggestions for the bags included the following from the group: masks, masks with clear mouthpieces, hand sanitizers, extra stylus pens, extras of anything that students share, and anti-fog spray or wipes for glasses.

Betsy Clark shared from the Educational Excellence Committee about the Schools for Africa Project. Some members have already contributed to SFA. The 2021 NC DKG Convention project, Knickers for New Life, provides knickers (underwear), sanitary supplies, separate latrines, and other items for school girls in Uganda. The Educational Excellence Committee made a motion that we donate \$100 to the Knickers for New Life Convention Project. The motion, coming from a committee, did not require a second, and was carried.

Nancy Tunstall presented for the membership committee. The following names were brought forward for membership consideration: Kirby Alston, Kate Hightower, Sara Lilley. Other names were discussed for collegiate membership. President Hall encouraged members to look for potential members.

Betsy Clark presented a recommendation from the Scholarship Committee and made a motion for the following to have their grants-in-aid renewed for 2021: Mila Alston, Ellen Denning, Faith Heisler, Hailey Stroud,

and Heidi Labra-Franco. No second was required. No discussion was held. President Hall presented the question. The members voted, and the motion carried.

There were no additional committee reports, and there was no unfinished business mentioned.

President Hall began the discussion of new business and talked about the upcoming virtual state convention. Nancy Tunstall made a motion that Gamma Chi Professional Development Grants be used to pay the registration fee of members for the 2021 NC DKG Virtual Convention as long as Shirley White received their registration invoices by March 25th. Lisa Bender seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Members voted, and the motion carried. Sylvia Alston and President Hall encouraged members to attend the virtual convention. Diane Colin shared that she will be representing the chapter at the convention by providing an introduction to the session with a drum that she received through a NC DKG Educational Grant.

Kat Noland, a member of Gamma Theta and the Region III Regional Director, presented. She shared that she is a teacher at a school in Cary and that her two children attend there and her husband is the PTA president. She congratulated the chapter on being one of the most thriving chapters that she has worked with. She shared inspiring details about the convention, and encouraged members to attend the convention and to attend the leadership development program.

Kat's program was to share ideas about how to grow our chapter. She encouraged the chapter to plan for sustainability and future leadership.

President Hall adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ashley Barnette, Recording Secretary

Active Members Present: Sylvia Alston, Mary Austell, Ashley Barnette, Lisa Bender, Melanie Burnette, Betsy Clark, Gail Coleman, Diane Colin, Aimee Cooper, Evelyn Hall, Linda Hall, Mary Catherine Harris, Katy Jones, Jenny O'Meara, Pattie Rodwell, Katherine Stewart, Nancy Tunstall, and Shirley White

Active Members Absent: Kay Beaver, Ginny Bernard, Diana Bobbitt, Kristen Boyd, Crystal Brantley, Katrinka Brewer, Brooke Callahan, Shirley Cava, Debra Clayton, Elaine Coleman, Jill Coleman, Sallye Duncan, Loree Harris, Brenda Holloman, Danylu Hundley, Laura Kearney, Donna Liles, Janis Meek, Renee Mizelle, Tracy Neal, Martha Ann Overby, Norma Retzlaff, Sheila Robertson, Chris Skinner, Michele Stallings, and Patricia Williamson

DKG Prospect Card

Name _____

Address _____

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Employer _____

Position _____

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Sponsor _____

DKG Prospect Card

Name _____

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