



# ALPHA LAMBDA

**THE DELTA KAPPA  
GAMMA SOCIETY  
INTERNATIONAL**

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## President's Message



Dear Alpha Lambda Members,

The chill is definitely in the air and Alpha Lambda members once again showed off their culinary skills! What could be better than warm soup and bread on a cool evening? Our annual soup supper was a great success. We enjoyed fellowship with each other, raised money for the professional development of teachers in Central America and learned about a program in our community which is working to help women get a step ahead. If you missed this meeting, please know that a “good time was had by all and that you were missed.”

This is the time of year when we outwardly show appreciation and thanksgiving for all the wonderful blessings in our lives. We think about the early years of our country and the hardships that the young settlers went through to build our nation. We also begin thinking about the holiday season and celebrations to come. Many of us rush around trying to find that “perfect” gift for family and friends. We then remember that the best gift we can give someone is the gift of ourselves. I am so thankful for all the gifts that Alpha Lambda members continue to give throughout the year. Preparing new teacher baskets, supplies for Porter Leath and the Women’s Abuse Shelter, and books for Hope House are some of the ways that we give to our community. Prayers, phone calls and cards for members who are struggling with a loss or illness are other ways that we give of ourselves. Listening to each other discussing struggles in present circumstances and getting advice about a classroom problem are ways we give from the heart. Saying, “Yes,” willingly and happily when asked to do something for Delta Kappa Gamma is the way that we support this great organization and its purposes. We have gifts that we are given from the organization and Alpha Lambda always gives back! Happy Holidays to everyone and remember what a gift each of you are.

*Cathy D. Meredith*

### Xi State Convention

Sewanee, Tennessee

July 6-8, 2013



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Jan. 5, 2013** 10:00 AM  
Program: “New Member Brunch”  
White Station Church of Christ

**Feb. 12, 2013** 4:30 PM  
Program: “Virtual Tea Sharing”  
DeNeuville Learning Center

**Feb. 19-20, 2013**  
Legislative Symposium  
Nashville, TN

**Mar. 1-3, 2013**  
Leadership Management Seminar  
Nashville, TN

**Mar. 18, 2013** 4:30 PM  
Program “DKG Gives”  
White Station Church of Christ

**Mar. 23, 2013** 8:00 PM  
“A Chorus Line”  
Theatre Memphis

**April 20, 2013** 11:00 AM  
Program: “Founders’ Day”  
Chickasaw Country Club



**Southeast Regional  
Conference  
Gaylord Palms  
Resort  
Orlando Florida  
July 10-13, 2013**





## WE GATHERED TOGETHER



There was a nip in the air, the leaves were turning and falling off the trees and the soup was cooking. That could only mean it was November and time for our Soup Supper meeting. Everybody say Mmm Mmm Good!!!

President Cathy Meredith called the meeting to order and Chrissie Allen led everyone in the Collect. The minutes and treasurer's report were approved. Jane Youngston read thank you notes from several of the agencies that we have donated items and time to so far this year. Mary Jo Wilson told members that she had received a thank you note from Porter Leath for our generous donations that they received in October. Cathy brought members up to date on all upcoming Xi State and International deadlines and encouraged members again to take advantage of everything our organization has to offer. Martha Bailey reported that in addition to the compiled chapters Yearbook, that she is had created a smaller Alpha Lambda Yearbook that she was selling to members before the big

Yearbook was available. Members voted to pay \$5.00 for the smaller version and all of the proceeds will go to Schools for Africa.

Susan Hoback was called on to introduce our special guest speaker for the evening, former Shelby County Juvenile Court Judge, Claudia Haltom. Susan's introduction began with the reading of an article written by Judge Haltom's husband. It was a funny look into the life of a busy mother, wife and career woman. The Honorable Judge Claudia Haltom spoke about her work with the Step Ahead Foundation, an organization pursuing a vision of improving the educational, economic, and health outcomes of women by providing free long-term, reversible birth control to women in Memphis and Shelby County. She recommended the book Life After Birth: A Memoir of Survival and Success as a Teenage Mother, by Summer Owens, which is placed in lobby of all clinics that work with Step Ahead. She answered questions and passed out pamphlets that members can distribute and share with others.



We didn't forget our "Alpha Lambda Cares" project at this meeting. Oh no we didn't!! Our members came through again with very generous donations of food items, toys and art supplies. The agency selected for the donations this month was Ronald McDonald House. We collected soooooo many items that they filled two eight foot tables and all of the floor space below them. It took boxes, crates and bags to pack all of the donated items and get them ready for delivery to Ronald McDonald House. The ladies of Alpha Lambda have really gotten behind our community project this year and oh, so many people are benefitting from your thoughtfulness.

Now it was on to the yummy part of this meeting: the SOUP!! Our culinary members knocked it out again this year with a variety of soups that ranged from a taco soup to a German sausage soup. Talk about variety. Of course there were the crackers and breads to accompany the soups and let's not forget the desserts. Oh yeah!!! Like in years past, we asked our members to pay

\$5.00 for the soup, breads and desserts. This year the profits from the supper were donated to teachers in Guatemala. Carolyn Taylor had told members that in that country teachers hoped to get children through first grade in order for them to learn to read which would allow them to be able to vote. She said the money we sent would be used for school supplies and teacher in-service. We were assured our money would be put to excellent use. What makes our donation even more special is it is one of our DKG countries. Everyone at this meeting had a wonderful time---great speaker, great meeting, great food and even greater fellowship. Let's make plans now to do it all over again next year.







## A HOLLY, JOLLY HOLIDAY

Before the hustle and bustle of the holiday season could get a good grasp on everyone members met for what has become an annual event for our chapter. Our holiday luncheon was held the first Saturday in December at the beautiful Chickasaw Country Club. Tables were decorated with a variety of Christmas trees surrounded by children's books donated by our members. The books were collected as part of our Alpha Lambda Cares community project that we have been participating in at each of our monthly meetings. The books collected were going to be donated to Hope House an agency that cares for children and families affected by Aids and HIV. Again the generosity of our members was over whelming.



You know the books will be enjoyed by the children of Hope House for a long time to come.



Before the luncheon, members were treated to a wonderful presentation by the students of the third and fourth grade choir from Immaculate Conception Cathedral School. Cathy Meredith took great pride in introducing the choir director, Lindsey Mullins, who was a former student of hers. There was a lot of energy and happy smiles as the children performed a variety of musical numbers. They were just so cute!! Cathy presented her former student with a honorium from the chapter and gave each of the children a gift bag filled with little happies.

At this event we were able to initiate Helen Perkins who was unable to attend initiation in October.

Carolyn Taylor did another excellent job in planning the menu for the luncheon. This time around we enjoyed a baked chicken entrée and back by popular demand were the apple salad and the yummy ice cream dessert that were served at the Initiation luncheon back in October. All it takes to get your holidays started in the right direction is good music, festive decorations, delicious food and wonderful Alpha Lambda fellowship.





# Ho Ho Ho !!!

The cafeteria at Alcy Elementary School was decorated with a big Christmas tree, holiday wall decorations and the audience was entertained by the Kirby High School choir. The audience was comprised of community and Alpha Lambda members all eagerly awaiting the arrival of little elves, reindeers and Santa's. As the students entered the cafeteria their teachers assigned them to an adult who had selected a special book for the event. At the appropriate time the adults read their books to their student and later gifted the book to them. Between the adults and the children there were many happy smiles and lots of hugs and a perfect way to celebrate the holidays.



*READ AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE*