



Alpha Lambda

Volume 58. Issue 1

Oct. 2016

President's Message



Dear Alpha Lambda sisters,

I want to begin by saying thank you, on behalf of our whole chapter, to the 2014-2016 chapter officers who have just finished leading us all through a such a successful biennium, with wonderful programs, worthy projects, and warm fellowship. Let's offer a round of applause for Cathy Meredith (Parliamentarian), Betty Lou Jones (Corresponding Secretary), Becky Taylor (Recording Secretary), Jane Cummiskey (Second Vice President), and Beverly Hooker (First Vice President).

And a standing ovation, if you please, for Mary Jo Wilson, who skillfully captained our ship through her second outstanding term as our chapter president; and for Camille Dolan, for her 10 years of dedicated service as our treasurer, keeping Alpha Lambda's finances in shipshape order.

As we move into the first year of the new biennium, I am excited about the opportunities that it brings for our chapter to continue exploring ways to grow. The spirit of teamwork that you all bring to the work and projects of our chapter is one of the many things I love and admire about DKG women, and the way in which our executive board arrived at the theme for this biennium is a good example of that.

In our board meeting this summer, when I was asked what I wanted the theme of this biennium to be, I drew a blank. I have no knack for coming up with pithy statements like themes, mottos, slogans, etc. I knew that I wanted something broad enough to fit the diverse range of programs and projects that we were planning, but I could find no words to express what I was thinking. Finally, Chrissie Allen tossed out "Go and Grow," and I gratefully grabbed onto it. It was broad enough to reflect our plans, and it fit nicely with Xi State President Dorrie Powell's theme of "Growing Possibilities." Weeks later, Jane Cummiskey emailed me a suggestion for expanding it, and after we each took a couple turns tweaking it, emailing our edits back and forth, we arrived at the final wording: **"Go and Grow...as members of our chapter, our profession, and our community."** It took a small team of us to come up with that short phrase.

This is just a tiny example of DKG teamwork, but we saw a grand example of it on display this July, as Xi State played host to our members from around the world at the wonderfully successful DKG International Convention in Nashville. Our own Becky Sadowski, with her usual efficiency and grace, orchestrated a statewide team of volunteers to pull this off.

I am grateful to be part of a group whose members continually inspire me with examples of what we can achieve when we work together, supporting, helping, and encouraging each other while pursuing the mission of our society. As a team, we are so much more than the sum of our individual talents.

I look forward to "going and growing" together with each of you this year!

Important Dates:

Oct. 15: Deadline to pay membership dues.

Oct. 15: Deadline to make reservations to attend initiation and luncheon.

Oct. 22: Initiation and Luncheon, 10:30 am, Chickasaw Country Club

Oct. 31: Deadline to submit nominations for Xi State officer and elected committee positions

Nov. 17: Meeting and program "Working with the ADHD Student in the Classroom," and new member potluck, 4:30, White Station Church of Christ.

Dec. 3: Program: "Books for Kids by Kids", and Christmas luncheon, 11:30, Chickasaw Country Club

Debi Gray

An Eventful Summer 2016

Alpha Lambda members had a busy summer participating in our state and international level events. Fourteen members attended Xi State convention in June, where they served as volunteers in various capacities, hosting one of the water breaks, working at the registration tables, serving as table hostesses, pages, choir members, and as presenters at break-out sessions. The chapter was recognized at the Awards banquet with the gold level Chapter Excellence Award, and as the chapter with the most members in attendance.

Members worked for many hours in June and July to prepare table decorations for the luncheon and dinner tables at the International Convention, and created beautiful handmade iris note cards for the gift bags given to convention participants. We had 20 members in attendance in Nashville, serving in a variety of jobs that included registration, properties manager, table hostess, decorating tables, and presenting breakout sessions. Members had a wonderful time enjoying the events of the convention and each others' fellowship, taking time out from the convention duties and meetings one evening to have dinner together at a local restaurant.

We were proud to see our chapter member Becky Sadowski elected as DKG International's Second Vice President. Congratulations, Becky!



Chapter members got together for dinner at "Monel's at the Manor" during the DKG International Convention in Nashville, this past July.



Alpha Lambda members at Sewanee, following the Xi State Ceremony of Remembrance

Initiation Luncheon



Sat., October 22
10:30

Chickasaw Country Club
3395 Galloway Ave.

Cost: \$25 Mail payment to:
Martha Bailey,
1551 Delmont Road,
Memphis 38117

Baileym25@comcast.net 901-487-1622

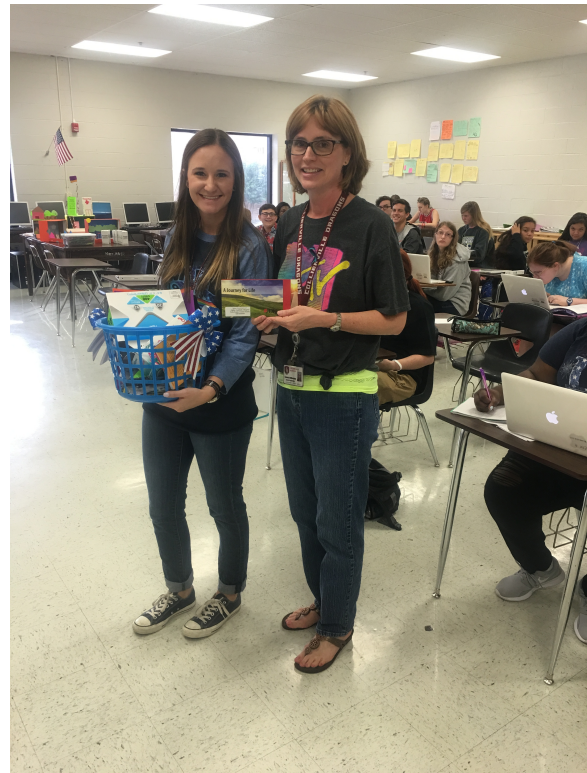
Indicate entrée choice (chicken, pork, or vegetarian) in memo line of check, or contact Martha to let her know your preference.

Please make your reservation by Oct. 15

New Teacher Basket Project a Success

Chapter members responded generously to the request to donate teacher supplies at the September meeting, supporting one of our annual projects, the creation and distribution of “new teacher baskets” to first year teachers in local schools. The International Projects committee worked to sort the donated items, and then filled 17 laundry baskets with the supplies, which were then delivered to the new teachers by the chapter members who had submitted the names of first-year teachers at their schools.

In addition, school supplies were delivered DeNeuville Learning Center, for the use of the women who participate in their adult classes.



Tammy Williamson delivering one of several baskets she brought to new teachers at Collierville High School.



Becky Taylor delivering a basket to Breanne Jackson, a new 1st grade teachers at Idlewild Elementary



Adult students at DeNeuville Learning Center with donated school supplies (pictured above and below.)



November Program and New Member Potluck

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2016 4:30 PM

Program: "Working with the ADHD Student in the Classroom"

Speaker: Ben Boeving

New Member Pot Luck Dinner

White Station Church of Christ

1106 Colonial Road

Hostesses: State Projects Committee

Highlighter: Dr. Linda Eller, Membership Committee & New Members

Donations: Meritan Silver Bells

Purposes: I, II, III, VI and VII

- Our guest speaker, Ben Boeving, is a certified ADHD coach, parent trainer, and consultant. To learn more about him, his practice, or his upcoming workshops, check out his website at <http://benboeving.com/index.html> and his blog at <http://benboeving.com/blog.html>.
- We will share a potluck dinner in honor of our new members. If you haven't yet signed up to bring a dish, please contact one of the social committee co-chairs, Linda Bond (email lindademingbond@cs.com, home phone 761-0465, mobile 831-6489), or Dona Packer (email rdspacker@ymail.com, mobile 318-496-0387) and let them know what you will bring. (New members will be our guests of honor, and do not need to bring a dish.)
- At this meeting we will be collecting donations for the Meritan Agency, which works with homebound seniors in our community. They sponsor the annual Meritan Silver Bells program to provide a holiday gift to the seniors they serve. They need to keep the following items on hand to meet the needs of their clients:
 - Pajamas/Robes (men's and women's, all sizes, but especially larger sizes)
 - Slippers/Socks (men's and women's)
 - Sheets, Blankets, Comforters (twin size, extra long)
 - Lotions and Toiletry Items
 - Incontinence supplies
 - Books/Crossword/Word Search Puzzles (large print)
 - Towels (face, hand, bath, and kitchen)
 - Paper and/or Cleaning Supplies(Items should be unopened and unused)

Reminder from the Xi State Nominations Committee

- **October 31, 2016** is the deadline for submitting nominations for Xi State's elected offices and committees, for the 2017-2019 biennium.
- Apply for state officer positions of **president, 1st vice president, 2nd vice president, corresponding secretary, and recording secretary**
- Apply for positions on the elected committees of **Finance, Nominations, and Personnel**. (*Xi State Bylaws* require equal representation from East, Middle, and West Tennessee on these three committees.)
- Apply for positions on the **Xi State Vision Foundation** board (a 4 year position, 2017-2021.)
- The application and endorsement forms are the same for state offices and state elected committees and can be found on the Xi State website under "Nominations."
- The endorsement form is not necessary, but recommended. If using the endorsement form, be sure to send it with the application either electronically or by snail mail.
- The applicant's picture must be included with the application.
- Send completed forms to Wanda Castleman, Chair, Nominations Committee 2015-2017, wbcastleman@comcast.net



Member Highlights

This issue, we are introducing your new officers.



Chrissie Allen, Parliamentarian

Chrissie is a retired creative writing teacher with over 41 years experience. She was named Tennessee Teacher of the Year 1998, and won the Master Teacher Award in 2010. She received many art grants from the State of Tennessee and DKG that allowed her to have creative artists come to her classes and do projects such as "Poetry Pottery," and making books like they were made in the 14th century, to name a few.

She joined DKG in 2006, and has done all the leadership seminars including the Golden Gift (now known as the Leadership Management Seminar). She has served as chapter president, and is now serving as Coordinating Council Chairman.

She supports the Boys and Girls Club tennis events, and plays in charity golf scrambles whenever she can afford it. She is passionate about golf and plays every day. She is the President of the Galloway Ladies Golf League, and is the Playdate Chairman of the Glen Eagle Ladies Association.

Classical music suits her, and she often played it during her writing classes. She loves reading a good mystery or a who-done-it. One of the things she loves about DKG is: "I don't have to explain myself. With other like-minded women, they are very accepting of who you are." Asked for one thing on her bucket list, Chrissie named two: 1) Ice, and 2) Champagne.



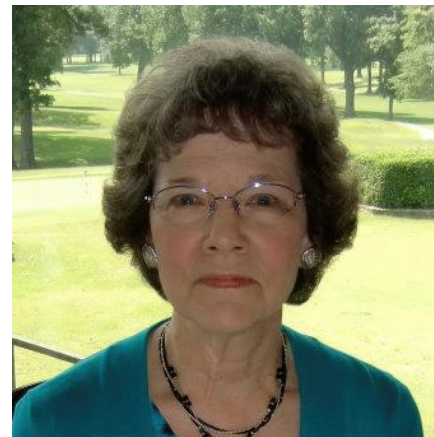
Martha Bailey, Treasurer

Martha is a retired teacher of Family and Consumer Sciences (better known as Home Economics). During her teaching career she was honored as Tennessee Middle School Teacher of the Year.

She joined DKG in 1984. She has served as chapter president, and was honored in 2015 with the Xi State Order of the Rose award for outstanding contributions to her chapter and community.

Martha is passionate about her two dogs, Abbie and Maggie, and in her leisure time, one of the things she enjoys doing is making cards. Her favorite music includes the works of Andrew Lloyd Webber, and when curling up with a good book, she prefers the novels of J. D. Robb.

Asked to name one of the things she loves about DKG, Martha replied "The friendships I have made." One item on her bucket list? To visit Hawaii.



Jane Cummiskey, 1st Vice President

Jane is retired from a career of over 35 years as a school Library Media Specialist, starting out at the middle school level, but changing to elementary school level after moving to Memphis. She worked in the Memphis City School system for 25 years, the last 21 years of which were at Grahamwood Elementary.

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Jane Cummiskey, (continued)

Jane joined DKG in 2001, and says that one of the things she loves best about the society is the wonderful friendships she has made. She also loves the way we help our community through our altruistic endeavors.

She is actively involved in supporting Susan G. Komen, the Alzheimer's Association, and the Page Robbins Adult Day Center, where she works as a volunteer. She is passionate about sharing the joy of reading, especially with young children, and since her retirement she has read to the kindergarten classes at Chimneyrock Elementary. She is also an active member of Alpha Delta Kappa, another honorary organization for women educators, and has served for eight years on their state executive board.

When listening to music she chooses classical, show tunes, easy listening, or sometimes country, depending on her mood. She loves reading "most anything," but historical fiction and mysteries are particular favorites. One leisure time activity she enjoys is making greeting cards.

She has been happily married for almost 49 years, and she and her husband have one son.



Amy Epps, Recording Secretary

Amy is vice principal at Central High School in Memphis, and is passionate about her kids. She joined the Alpha Lambda chapter of DKG in 2008, and has completed the beginners' leadership seminar.

One thing she loves about our society is the opportunity it provides to socialize with DKG women from all walks of life. She also appreciates the way our chapter explores service agencies in our community, saying that she likes "exploring new things through DKG so when I slow down with work, I will have an idea of what I want to volunteer to do."

Regarding her taste in music, Amy describes herself as "an 80's baby"; and as for her reading, all of her books are education-related. In her leisure time she enjoys doing cross-stitching, and watching movies.

Amy is the proud mother of two daughters; one has graduated with a degree in international human rights, and the other is a sophomore at the University of Memphis.

She recently completed one of her "bucket list" items by taking a trip to Greece this past summer. Other items on the list? "I am a big football fan of the U. of Alabama and the Pittsburgh Steelers. When I retire, I would like buy and RV and go to all of the games."



Helen Erskine, Corresponding Secretary

Helen retired from a 33-year career teaching English, the last 25 years of which she served as a CLUE (gifted) English teacher at White Station Middle School here in Memphis. She was recognized with the Rotary Award for Teacher Excellence in 1997, The Crystal Apple Award from News Radio WREC (2001-2002), the Prestige Teacher Award for Memphis City Schools (2012), and was the first recipient of the Carolyn Phipps Master Teacher Award from the Shelby County – Memphis Council of Teachers of English (2009).

She was initiated into DKG in 1995, and says that one of the things she loves best about DKG is "the lovely group of caring women and friends, who enjoy being together."

Helen loves spending time with her family, which includes two grandchildren. She and her husband Bruce like to immerse themselves in both their Greek and Scottish cultures and activities, and Helen is quite active at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church. She also enjoys Tai Chi, exercising at the Germantown Athletic Center, cooking, traveling, doing crossword puzzles, and watching old movies.

When listening to music, she prefers classical, Broadway tunes, movie theme songs, or rock. She also loves to read, particularly historical novels about all cultures, and interesting stories about human interactions and relationships.

When asked for something on her bucket list, Helen shared that she wants to continue to travel, and that she thinks it would be fun to live in Paris for an extended period of time.



Debi Gray, *President*

Debi is the librarian at Christ Methodist Day School, where she integrates global studies into her library lessons. She has worked in children's libraries for the past 27 years, starting her career in the Memphis Public Library, before becoming a school librarian a few years later while completing her M.A.T. at the U. of Memphis to earn teacher certification.

She was selected as a participant for the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program in 2008, received the Liz Whorley Bradley Professional Growth Award from Xi State Vision Foundation in 2011, and won Memphis in May's International's "Best International Teacher" competition in 2014.

Debi joined DKG in 2010, and loves the friendships she has formed. She feels both encouraged and inspired by the women in our chapter and in the larger DKG society.

She is passionate about Maanza a Leza, a mission project she launched in 2004 through her church, Mullins United Methodist, which funds the construction of school classrooms in a rural Zambian village.

Debi enjoys camping, particularly in National Parks. She likes riding her bicycle, taking walks, crocheting, and taking free MOOCs (massive open online courses) through Coursera's website. She loves traveling, and reads fiction by authors from different countries and cultures in order to "armchair travel" through books. Her taste in music includes classical, 70's rock and folk, and world music.

One thing on her bucket list is to take a trip to Peru to visit Machu Picchu and study Spanish.



Becky Taylor, *2nd Vice President*

Becky teaches at Idlewild Elementary, where she is in her 7th year of working in a 3rd grade self-contained classroom. She has achieved Shelby County Schools' Level 5 Teacher status, and has received recognition as WREG's Educator of the Week. She is also a TeachPlus Fellowship Alumni, and a recipient of a Xi State Vision Foundation Grant.

Becky joined DKG in 2011, and loves the community she finds within it.

She is an active member of Idlewild Presbyterian Church, where she serves as a deacon and as a member of the Board of Directors for the church children's center. She has also been a coordinator of LeBonheur Children's Hospital's "Go Jim Go" fundraising campaign for 6 years.

Becky cares passionately about her family, the arts, and social justice. In her leisure time she enjoys cooking, crafting, and practicing yoga. Her taste in music runs the gamut, including everything from Billie Holiday to Beethoven to Led Zeppelin. She loves reading mysteries, fantasy, and science fiction books.

When asked for something on her bucket list, Becky said that she would like to travel to as many places as possible.

She and her husband, Nate, are looking forward to becoming parents this December. Becky shared,

"We are both from Memphis, and are excited to raise our son in this city that we love!"