



Alpha Lambda

President's Message



Dear Alpha Lambda Sisters,

With the onset of spring, my thoughts turn to making plans for Xi State, our Tennessee State Convention. I look forward to reconnecting with members from across the state as well as creating new friends as we assemble to conduct the business of our state organization. This year our new state officers will be installed at the banquet.

I can vividly remember being encouraged to attend my first Xi

State. “Once you go, you get it,” I was told. Though I was unsure of what it was I would get, I registered, attended and got it I did!! Hooked on the beauty and tranquility of this place, and the traditions: the Order of the Rose; the late night trip to the Cross; the Ceremony of Remembrance followed by the Delta Kappa Gamma Song on the carillon as we gather hand in hand on the lawn are all awe-inspiring. All these things and so much more, including my Sewanee Angel, pull me back to the mountaintop each year.

The 84th Xi State Convention will convene May 30 – June 1, 2019. Early registration ends May 1, and after that date, registration increases by \$30.00. I am hoping to encourage many of you to attend so that you too can share our mountaintop experience. Perhaps reading the reflection of one of our members after her first trip to Xi State will convince you to give it a try. Read Becky Taylor's reflection.

Jane Cummiskey

Xi State? It's Just...

When I first joined Delta Kappa Gamma, I was a twenty-three-year-old second-year teacher. I spent the year only half-convinced I knew what I was doing, working late hours and trying hard to keep up, fueled only by the conviction of my calling as an educator (and caffeine). I looked forward to my Alpha Lambda chapter meetings as a way to connect with other educators who understood the journey and had common passions and challenges. When my chapter president told me I should go to Xi State in Sewanee, it wasn't phrased as a question.

“So you've signed up for Xi State, right?” she charged. When I admitted I had

no idea what she was talking about, the other chapter members joined in similarly passionate appeals. “You have to go. It’s just... You’ll love it. You just have to go.” It’s just *what?* Why do I have to go? It wasn’t until I went “up the mountain” to experience my first Xi State that I understood why the explanation had trailed off. There is a beauty, a repose, and a revitalization that comes from Xi State that truly does defy explanation. You have to experience it to understand it.

From the moment I stepped into Sewanee, I felt at peace. I was immediately welcomed into my dorm room (which, by the way, is luxury accommodations compared to my undergrad dorm!). The Orientation Tea put me in direct community with other first-timers to Xi State, some of them new to DKG and other long-time members. I enjoyed putting faces to names of all the DKG Xi State “legends” like Jensi Souders, Vera Jo Henegar, Nancy Davis, and Elaine Warwick. The sense of camaraderie is powerful at Xi State.

I had the opportunity to meet and work with other educators from all around the state in various workshops that—get this—were *interesting!* I’ve been to my fair share of boring, dried-out, redundant PD, and this isn’t it. How to apply for grants, how to coupon effectively, and Zumba are examples of some valuable skills I have acquired at Xi State. I bid on some incredible handmade gifts from around the state at the silent auction and learned about all of the different chapters’ goals and accomplishments. Incredible things can be accomplished when such passionate, dedicated women come together in the common bond of Delta Kappa Gamma.

But really, Xi State is just...beyond words. I can tell you what I did and how I felt, but I can’t adequately describe the impact it had on my career and my life. To understand, you have to go. You just have to go. So, you’ve signed up for Xi State, right?

Becky Taylor

(Reflection of my first Xi State experience)

What do Our Committees Do?

Continuing with our series of spotlighting Alpha Lambda committees and their duties, this month's focus is on the Social Committee. The Social Committee is charged with the task of arranging for refreshments at chapter meetings. They solicit and coordinate help from different chapter committees, making sure that we have a variety of delicious refreshments at each meeting. This is no easy task. There is a great deal of behind the scenes organization and communication, in addition to, the actual set up and clean up at chapter meetings. They also secure greeters for each meeting who assist with signing in, distributing materials, and whatever else is needed to help the meeting run smoothly. Hats off to Dona Packer and Kathryn Smith, co-chairs of the Social Committee, along with fellow committee members: Crystal Cook, Becky Cooper, Bonnie Cummings, Helen Erskine, Beverly Hooker, Helen Perkins, and Casey Wright, for the outstanding job they have done this year.

FYI –

ALPHA LAMBDA DUES

That time of the year is quickly approaching for members to pay their DKG dues. Changes at International now require that dues be paid by June 30th. For all paperwork to be completed and submitted to International, dues should be sent to Martha Bailey, Alpha Lambda Treasurer, by June 15th. Dues are \$80 for Active members and \$40 for Reserve members. You may start paying them anytime. If you would like to pay in two installments, that

will be fine. Just remember the final payment must be received by June 15th and partial payments cannot be refunded. You may bring your payment to Martha at any chapter meeting, or you may mail them to her at:

*Martha Bailey
1551 Delmont Road
Memphis, TN 38117*

If you have any questions about dues, you can e-mail her at baileym26@comcast.net or call her at 901-487-1622.

*Checks should be made out to **ALPHA LAMBDA**.*

Membership Matters

Who is a DKG Woman Educator? She is a woman who is:

- Motivated to make a difference*
- Able to bring out the best in others*
- A potential leader*
- Employed as a professional educator or retired from an educational position*

Now is the time that Alpha Lambda members should begin thinking about recruiting new members for the upcoming 2019-2020 year. The traits listed above are only a few ideas for you to consider when looking at possible outstanding women educators for active membership in our chapter. New members are the key to the future of Alpha Lambda. So consider possible nominees, speak with them about DKG, invite them to join us for the Founder's Day Luncheon (April 27), and/or our final meeting May 2 at DeNeuille Learning Center.

The steps below explain the process for nomination/induction of new members:

1. Complete the DKG Prospect Card and submit it on/before the May 2nd meeting.
2. The Membership Committee will have a summer orientation meeting with prospective members.
3. Information about those who have been nominated will be presented at the September business meeting. At that time the membership will vote.
4. Induction/initiation of new members will be at the Coordinating Council October brunch/lunch; however, new-member induction may occur at other times during the year.

If you have questions, contact Janice Enck, Membership Chair, at 901-682-5375 or at Janice.enck@gmail.com.

Alpha Lambda Rules

Alpha Lambda's chapter rules have been reviewed and revised by the Ad Hoc Rules committee. The revised rules will be emailed to you. Please review them and bring any questions/concerns that you have to the May chapter meeting. The revised rules will be presented and there will be an opportunity for discussion. Thank you to members of the Ad Hoc committee: Linda Eller (Chair), Martha Bailey, Linda Bond, Camille Dolan, Janice Enck, and Mary Jo Wilson for updating our chapter rules.

Recap on the Xi State Legislative Symposium

On March 5-6 in Nashville, TN Carolyn Taylor and I set out to help our state

legislators get some perspective on Education in Tennessee and gain some insight into an educator's world through the Xi State Legislative Symposium. The evening of the 5th we participated in a symposium with Delta Kappa Gamma sisters, representatives, and senators from across the state. Questions had been submitted beforehand and the mistress of ceremonies asked these questions of the panel. The questions ranged from Pre-K to Higher Education and curriculum to testing. It was informative and good to hear the responses of the panel.

The next morning, we were greeted to a warm welcome from our new TN Commissioner of Education, Dr. Penny Schwinn. She shared how she came from a family of educators and thoughts about her first couple of weeks in office. We adjourned to a "Day on The Hill" to meet with any legislators that we made appointments with. Carolyn and I had made appointments with several legislators and made our voices heard about testing specifically. We were welcomed and told repeatedly how important it is to contact your senators and representatives about your thoughts on all the bills being presented. You can find the legislators that represent your district by going to www.capitol.tn.gov. Click on the link "[Find My Legislator](#)". You can find bills related to education by clicking on the "[Legislation](#)" link.

I was able to meet with a former student and Central HS graduate, London Lamar. I was glad that I had the opportunity to express to her how proud we are of her. I made plans to meet with Representative Lamar this summer to extend our conversation about testing.

In addition to our successful two days in Nashville, Carolyn and I were able to become well acquainted with one another on our drive to and from Nashville. We listened to each other's stories of childhood and bragged about how proud we are of our children and grandchildren. I would recommend this experience, at least once in your life, so you can see what all goes into the jobs of our elected officials.

by Amy Epps (a ten-year member of DKG)

DKG Sisters:

You are more powerful than you think! You have firsthand knowledge and experience with being an educator. You need to share your insights, skills, and ideas with those who are making decisions which will impact our public schools for years to come. I cannot urge you enough to become a voice for children and teachers all over the state and country.

Amy showed you how to find out who your representative is and how to call/contact them. This is vitally important when we have a Gov. and Ed. Commissioner who want nothing more than to shut down public schools and incorporate as many charter schools as they can. The plan includes giving unaccountable money to a parent to do with what they will: home school, religious school, private school. There is no accountability for this money. This is serious as they are proposing \$125 million for this program. That means money that won't be going to improve existing public schools.

If you are on Facebook or you have a cell phone that can send texts set yourself up with a system called: resistbot. You tell them your address and they find your representatives. You can send your reps a quick message on whatever topic you wish. It is fast and done in a minute or two. Those I spoke to in Nashville urged us to let them know what we think about matters they have to vote on.

The thing that struck me the most was that none of 2 Reps or the Senator I met with had any grasp of what it means to teach, manage a classroom, or juggle all the hundreds of things a classroom teacher must do. It is our job to EDUCATE them. YOU can do this by talking about the issues facing you as an everyday teacher. On a national level send your comments to your Rep. and our Senators about the latest ideas De Vos has for increasing class size and starting more charter schools - she is a huge supporter of sending public school money to charter schools.

I would urge every member to attend next year's Legislative Symposium. It was an eye-opener for me. I will continue to follow education bills both state and federal and use my 'resistbot' to express my ideas and opinions.

by Carolyn Taylor (a thirty-eight-year member of DKG)

Mark Your Calendar

ALPHA LAMBDA CHAPTER MEETINGS

2018-2019

Saturday, April 27

Thursday, May 2

XI STATE DATES

2019 Xi State Convention Dates

May 30, May 31, June 1

The University of The South

Sewanee, TN

DKG Dates

2019 DKG Southeast Regional Conference

June 27-29

Asheville, NC



March Birthdays

LeCharle Harris 4

Clemmie West 6

Fay Beth Broughton 10

Jane Youngson 16

Cathy Meredith 20

Susan Hoback 22

April Birthdays

Mary Helen Sinclair	3
Janice Enck	21
Amy Anderson	27
May Birthdays	
Kathryn Smith	2
Paula Marshall	6
Becky Taylor	7
Cristy Sneed	8
Carolyn Warren	15

Upcoming Meetings

Next chapter meeting is:

“Founder’s Day Celebration”

Luncheon

Saturday, April 27, 2019 11:00 AM

Ridgeway Country Club

Speaker will be Dr. Beverly Hall,

Xi State 1st Vice President

Reservations and Payment (\$25)

due to Martha Bailey Monday, April

15 (Indicate entrée choice, chicken

or salmon, on check)

May Meeting:

Thursday, May 2, 2019 4:30 PM
Colonial Middle School Library
Program: "Tea and Titles"
Presenters: Linda Eller and Paula
Marshall

Alpha Lambda Cares Projects

May: Gift Bag Items for Students
at DeNeuille Learning Center

Alpha Lambda "BOOK SWAP"

In connection with the program theme for the May 2 meeting we will have a Book Swap. Bring any books that you would be willing to lend (or give) to other chapter members for their summer reading pleasure. Fiction, nonfiction, professional – any book that you have enjoyed reading or that you think might be helpful to another member. So clean out those bookshelves and make room for some new titles.


Congratulations to Becky!

Becky Sadowski Nominated for International Achievement Award

By a unanimous decision, the Tennessee State Organization Executive Board voted to nominate Alpha Lambda member Becky Sadowski for the International Achievement Award. Below is an excerpt from our recommendation summarizing Becky's outstanding leadership qualities.

Tennessee enthusiastically recommends Becky Sadowski for this recognition. As an international officer, chair and member of multiple international committees,

regional director, international convention steering committee chair, and state organization president, Becky authentically represents DKG as a key women educator and richly deserves this honor. She has dedicated her time and talents to support, mentor, collaborate with, and lead members while building relationships that will last a lifetime. With gratitude for her 30 years of membership, she says interacting with members has enriched her own life, and she continues to help DKG maintain its position as a vibrant, relevant organization. The award will be presented this summer at one of the International Conferences, and we hope those voting for this honor agree with Tennessee's recommendation of Becky Sadowski!



DKG Prospect Card

Name Jane Doe

Address 123 Learn Street

E-mail jane_doe@comcast.net

Employer Sample School District

Position 1st Grade Teacher

Phone 717-123-4567

Sponsor Dr. Lyn Schmid

DKG Prospect Card

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Employer _____

Position _____

Phone _____

Sponsor _____

Please print and use for any DKG Prospects.



Senator Raumush AkBari from Memphis and Alpha Lambda member Carolyn Taylor meeting during Xi State Legislative Symposium March 6 2019.

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



