

Alpha Beta Chapter Learns About Local Sustainable Farming

by Carol Hughes, Roanoke

On February 9, Alpha Beta Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International met at the Chenoa Family Restaurant.

Local farmer Marty Travis explained how the Spence Farm, the oldest farm in Livingston County, is now a sustainable farm that produces many types of vegetables and food products. Along with 25 other small farms, Spence Farm provides food for chefs in Chicago suburbs and other restaurants in the Peoria area. Millions of dollars have been brought back into Livingston County because of the food products produced on these smaller farms. Travis said that their sustainable farming is “not about competition but cooperation,” and they have formed a wonderful relationship with the chefs who purchase from them.

President Nancy Wier (Eureka) shared a note requesting Alpha Beta’s further support of the Mom and Me Camp project by donating picture books that would be available in Lincoln and Decatur Correctional Centers when children visit their mothers. Wier also shared that member Amy Van Vleet (Chenoa) received a check for \$500 from the DKG International Emergency Fund because of the fire caused by a winter storm at her home.

Communications and Publicity Chair Carol Hughes (Roanoke) encouraged members to attend the Lambda State Convention on April 26-28 at the Decatur Conference Center and Hotel. If a member cannot attend for the weekend, she should consider coming on Saturday. Volunteers are needed as greeters, table hostesses and conveners.

Membership Chair Louann Harms (Fairbury) announced the yearly project of awarding 4 to 6 grants of \$100 each to early career and non-tenured educators. Members will be distributing the forms in local schools. Deadline for applications is April 1.

Legislation Chair Lou Ann Jacobs (Normal) stated that the Illinois Education Association initiated a bill to repeal the 3 per cent salary limit law that shifts the state’s cost of paying for an educator’s pensionable earnings to local school districts, institutions of higher education and local property tax payers. This proposed bill is meant to ease the teacher shortage in Illinois since districts are refusing to reward teachers who earn master’s degrees, obtain additional credentials, and perform extracurricular duties like coaching teams.

Barb Baumann (Minonk), Immediate Past President, is seeking volunteers for the chapter table at the convention bazaar which will sell chances on collections of gift cards. She has received some gift cards but still needs more. Baumann also announced that the Creative Arts Retreat will be held June 28-30 at Allerton Park, Monticello.

The next meeting will be held at the Chenoa Family Restaurant at 9:00 am on Saturday, March 9. Featured will be a purse auction with a local auctioneer to raise funds for a variety of local, state and international projects supported by Alpha Beta.

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International is an organization for key women educators that promotes professional and personal growth and excellence in education. The Society has chapters in 17 countries and serves over 70,000 members by providing grants for educational projects, scholarships, leadership training, mentoring, and global networking opportunities. For more information, visit the website at www.dkg.org or call Carol Hughes at 309-923-7370.

Pictured in photo: Marty Travis (Fairbury) answers questions about sustainable farming with Marylee Harms (Fairbury) and Elaine Cunningham (Minonk).

