

Alpha Beta Chapter Reviews Upcoming Activities

by Carol Hughes

On September 8, the Alpha Beta Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International met at Edinger's Filling Station in Pontiac.

Co-Vice President Marylee Harms (Fairbury) reported that programs came together well after the summer meetings. Future meetings will feature STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) activities to use in the classroom, the Illinois Teacher of the Year, sustainable farming in the area, tips to a clutter free life, and teaching about the Holocaust.

Marcia Wahls (Lexington), Communications and Publicity Committee, shared that the order of the program booklet had been rearranged.

Louann Harms (Fairbury), Membership Chair, expressed the need for more members. A candidate for membership is a woman who is currently or was paid a salary or fee for specific educational services. That potential member may not have taught just in a school but also in a large company, a hospital, or other business.

Finance Committee chair Alberta Kinate (Forrest) explained the budget which was accepted. The chapter will continue to give funds to local, state and international projects. A purse auction will be held in March to supplement the budget.

Literacy Chair Jan Masching (Dwight) expressed appreciation for the many children's books that were donated by members and delivered to the Logan Correctional Center in Lincoln and the Pontiac Correctional Center. It was suggested that Alpha Beta apply for a stipend from the state Foundation for Educational Studies to support this project that connects imprisoned mothers with their children.

Treasurer Janet Kilgus (Fairbury) was recognized for being elected to a national position in the NEA (National Education Association). She will serve as the Alternate NEA Director for Retired. For the past three years she served as the IEA (Illinois Education Association) Retired Chair.

Women in the Arts Chair Barb Baumann (Minonk) encouraged members to attend the annual state Creative Arts Retreat on October 5-7 at the Lorado Taft Campus in Oregon. State Music Chair Elaine Cunningham (Minonk) shared that this October will be the last year the Retreat will be held at Lorado Taft.

Lou Ann Jacobs (Normal) announced there will be a Legislative Seminar on Saturday, October 20, at the Lincoln Library in Springfield.

The meeting closed with members participating in the game "Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader?"

The next meeting will be on October 9 with a dinner at 5:30 pm at Edinger's Filling Station. Chastity Pick (Chenoa) will present the program featuring STEM classroom activities. Current teachers who are not chapter members are invited to attend.

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International (DKG) 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 contact Carol Hughes at chughes@mtco.com or 309-923-7370.

Photo: Alpha Beta president Nancy Wier (Eureka) congratulates Janet Kilgus on her being elected to serve in a national position as the Alternate NEA Director for Retired.

