

Alpha Beta Chapter Discusses the Importance of Reading the Book *Wonder*

by Carol Hughes, Roanoke

On March 14 at the Alpha Beta Chapter meeting of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International at Edinger's Filling Station, Pontiac, members discussed *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio, which was recently made into a movie. Led by Shirley Mueser (Roanoke), the discussion centered on Auggie, a 10-year-old child whose severe facial deformity causes many classmates to bully him and a few classmates to befriend him.

This book inspired the Choose Kind movement. Kate Walter (Cullom), who teaches at Prairie Central Elementary School, added that she read the book to her fourth grade students, and the students not only liked and were touched by the story, but parents were glad that their children learned how hurtful bullying can be for some children.

A memorial service was led by Marianne Hall (Dwight) assisted by Marylee Harms (Fairbury) and Carol Hughes (Roanoke) in remembrance of Margaret Janssen (Pontiac) and Dorothy Riley (Metamora).

Treasurer Janet Kilgus (Fairbury) reported that the chapter has purchased an eighth well in Malawi. Each well has cost \$400.

Nominations Chair Carol Hoffman (Fairbury) read the slate of officers for the 2018-2020 biennium-- President: Nancy Wier (Eureka), Co-1st Vice Presidents: Marylee Harms and Karen Harms (Fairbury), 2nd Vice President: Lou Ann Jacobs (Normal), Secretary: Lila McCulley (Minonk), and Corresponding Secretary: Kate Walter.

President Barb Baumann (Minonk) announced that eight members plan to attend the Lambda State Convention on April 20-22 at The Westin Lombard Yorktown Center. She also announced that board books will be collected for the Aunt Mary's Storybook Project.

Professional Affairs Co-Chair Karen Harms announced that Janessa Knapp, senior from Prairie Central High School, who plans to become an elementary teacher, and Hayley Schlabowske, senior from Dwight Township High School, who wants to be a chemistry teacher, have been selected to each receive an Alpha Beta Grant of \$200 at the May meeting. Early Educator Grants of \$100 will also be awarded at the meeting.

Members were urged to vote in the March 20th primary by Legislation Chair Lou Ann Jacobs (Normal.)

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 5, at Edinger's Filling Station when various grants will be awarded, a report from the convention will be given, and new officers will be installed.

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International (DKG) is an honor society that promotes the professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education. The Society has chapters in 17 countries and serves 71,000 members by providing scholarships, awarding grants for projects, leadership training, mentoring, and global networking opportunities for women. For more information, visit the website at www.dkg.org or call Carol Hughes at 309-923-7370.

Pictured in photo:

Shirley Mueser (center) discusses the book *Wonder* with members Kate Walter and Marylee Harms.

