

Alpha Beta Chapter Learns About STEAM and CAR Activities

by Carol Hughes, Roanoke

On October 9 Alpha Beta Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International met at Edinger's Filling Station in Pontiac. Marylee Harms (Fairbury) presented the program on hands-on classroom activities that stress STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). According to the US Dept. of Education, jobs in these areas will grow by 14 percent from 2010-2020.

The children in Prairie Central Elementary School (Fairbury) work in small groups to solve a STEAM problem. Some of these self-directed student learning activities include building a tower of 100 cups that will stand by itself and building a bridge of index cards and masking tape that will hold small weights. These activities were prepared by fourth grade teacher Kate Walter (Collum).

Janet Kilgus (Fairbury), Barb Baumann (Minonk) and Carol Hoffman attended the Creative Arts Retreat (CAR) at the LoradoTaft Campus in Oregon on October 5-7 and displayed a variety of their projects such as wreaths, stepping stones, ornaments, baskets, and other items. Elaine Cunningham (Minonk), who chairs the State Music Committee, played the music and directed a play which were featured at the event.

Jan Masching (Dwight), Literacy Chair, shared that during the past 13 years 1,451 books have been collected to support the programs of incarcerated mothers in state correctional centers who read to their children.

Louann Harms (Fairbury), Membership Chair, presented information on the stipend from the Lambda State Foundation for Educational Studies for which Beta chapter and Alpha Beta will be applying this month. Louann and Jan Masching will be working with three other members from Beta to write the application seeking funds to purchase book bags, school supplies, and books for the Mom and Me Camp program. Forty-five children spend three nights at East Bay Camp by Lake Bloomington. On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, buses transport children from the camp to either Lincoln or Decatur Correctional Centers where the children spend each day with their mothers who visit, play, and read to the children.

President Nancy Wier (Eureka) discussed the need to have specific goals for the 2018-20 biennium. Members are asked to bring specific goals to the November meeting in these 4 areas: leadership, membership, programs, and marketing.

Co-Vice-Presidents Marylee Harms and Karen Harms (Fairbury) will be sending applications to the local high schools seeking applicants for grants for young women who are planning to become teachers. Two chapter grants for \$200 each and a state grant for \$1,000 are being offered.

Alpha Beta's next meeting will be at the Chenoa Family Restaurant on November 17 at 9:00 am. The program features Illinois Teacher of the Year Lindsey Jensen who will share the process for selection along with her duties, obstacles, and delights in her being chosen as the Illinois Teacher of the Year for 2018.

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 www.dkg.org or contact Carol Hughes at (chughes@mtco.com) or 309-933-7370.

Pictured in photo: Attendees at the Creative Arts Retreat Janet Kilgus and Barb Baumann display the crafts they created during their weekend at the LoradoTaft Campus in Oregon.

