

Alpha Beta Members Learn About Global Health

Carol Hughes

On January 13 the Alpha Beta Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International met at Edinger's Filling Station in Pontiac. Dr. Mary Stapel, a physician in Peoria who teaches Global Health at the University of Illinois Medical School, discussed the current "Global Health and Trends in Global Health Education." She feels the best definition of global health as summarized by Keith Martin and Richard Horton is "to improve the well-being of people and the planet where we can."

Global health does not just relate to people in areas like Africa and Southeast Asia, but rural areas of the US along with the homeless and poor in US cities. Human trafficking as well ties into global health. Dr. Stapel also shared about her medical mission trips she took to Haiti and Ghana.

Treasurer Janet Kilgus (Fairbury) reported that the contributions for local, state and international projects have all been sent. She noted that Alpha Beta supports global needs with its contributions to Seeds of Hope in Guatemala and Schools for Africa and purchase of wells in Malawi.

Membership Chair Louann Harms (Fairbury) asked members to distribute the applications for \$100 grants to early career educators in schools in their areas. She shared that Dr. Joan Rog, state membership chair, is asking Illinois members to send the committee a word or words that echo their thoughts on their being members of DKG. Words shared by meeting attendees included *stimulating, caring support, friendships, and honor to be asked.*

Carol Hoffman (Fairbury) noted that the Nominations Committee is still seeking a nominee for 1st vice president of the chapter for 2018-2020.

Legislation Co-Chair Lou Ann Jacobs (Normal) reported that Governor Rauner vetoed the school funding bill as he wants students at private schools included for scholarships. The legislature is trying to override the veto. She also reminded members of the primary election in March.

Ceremonies Chair Marianne Hall (Dwight) shared that two deceased members, Dorothy Riley and Margaret Janssen, will be remembered in February.

Vice-President Nancy Wier (Eureka) read an invitation from Suzy Perkins of Beta Chapter to attend their January 16th meeting and hear a speaker discuss bullying in the Bloomington and Normal schools.

The next meeting will be at Edinger's Filling Station at 9:00 am on Saturday, February 10. The program "Sustainable Farming—Its Meaning and Why It Matters" will be presented by farmers of Spence Farm. PD's will be available.

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International 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 over 71,000 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 309-923-7370.

Pictured in photo: Dr. Mary Stapel (center) discusses global health with Jan Liston (Bloomington) and Nancy Wier, her mother.