

Alpha Beta Members Learn About Hobo Experiences and Quilts

by Carol Hughes, Roanoke

On October 11 Alpha Beta Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International met at the First Presbyterian Church in Fairbury. Louann Harms (Fairbury) and Sue Coons (Dana) presented the program on hobo quilts which commemorate the history of the two million hobos who rode the rails in the US from the 1880's to the 1940's. To protect each other, the hobos posted signs with various symbols, some of which meant *Camp Here*, *Dangerous Neighborhood*, *Kind-Hearted Lady*, *Good Water*, *Food for Work*, and *Doctor – No Charge*. Members also shared experiences of their parents and grandparents giving food and shelter to the hobos of the past.

President Barb Baumann (Minonk) thanked the committee who had prepared a delicious "hobo supper" for attendees. She noted that used books donated by members are for sale at meetings to support literacy projects.

Legislation Chair Lou Ann Jacobs (Normal) urged everyone to vote in the upcoming election. Also, on the ballot is a proposed amendment to the *Constitution* stating that tax money allotted to Transportation cannot be directed to pay for other items in the budget.

Concerning Literacy, Jan Masching (Dwight) said that Alpha Beta continues to support the Achieve Center in Pontiac along with Aunt Mary's Storybook Project at Lincoln Correctional Center. She asked that members seek out teachers of students who are doing creative writing to submit three literary works per class. Student writing will be displayed at the Lambda State Convention. For more information contact Masching (j_masching@yahoo.com). Treasurer Janet Kilgus (Fairbury) presented a check for purchasing book/supplies for the students who are learning English in a Russian school Carol Hughes (Roanoke) visits each year.

Women in the Arts Chair Alberta Kinate (Forrest) reported that she, Carol Hoffman (Fairbury), and Barb Baumann had a great time making a variety of items that were displayed. All were crafted at the Creative Arts Retreat on October 7-9 at the Lorado Taft Campus in Oregon. She also asked members to think of a college student they know who is majoring in the arts and ask her to apply for the M. Josephine O'Neil Arts Award which is \$2,000.

Connie Rich, Scholarship Chair, encouraged members to apply for scholarships or stipends to further their education or for courses and seminars. Carol Hughes reminded members to apply for the stipends available for classroom and community projects from the Lambda State Foundation.

After leading members in singing "Hobo's Lullaby," Elaine Cunningham (Minonk) encouraged attendees to the convention to sing in the chorus.

Kay Hammer (Fairbury), International Projects Co-Chair, announced that Alpha Beta now has collected enough funds for a seventh well for Malawi. Historian Marylee Harms (Fairbury) presented Carol Hoffman (Fairbury) with a printed booklet of photos and articles recognizing her service as past president

Alpha Beta's next meeting will be at Edinger's Filling Station, a restaurant in Pontiac at 9:00 am on November 12. Christine Berto, a past state president, will be the state visitor.

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 almost 75,000 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 (chughes@mtco.com).

Pictured in photos: Speakers Louann Harms and Sue Coons gather around Barb Baumann who designed and sewed a hobo quilt containing the symbols hobos left in various areas of the US. It will be auctioned at the DKG state convention in April.

Alberta Kinate and Carol Hoffman display some of their artistic creations from the weekend they spent at the Creative Arts Retreat at the Lorado Taft Campus near Oregon.

