

State Visitor Praises Alpha Beta Chapter

by Carol Hughes, Roanoke

On November 12, the Alpha Beta Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International hosted State Visitor Christine Berto (Nu Chapter, Bloomington) at Edinger's Filling Station in Pontiac.

Berto, 1997-1999 Past President of Lambda State (Illinois), complimented President Baumann and the committees who are dedicated to accomplishing worthwhile goals for the members. She noted that the chapter is very generous in its support of many chapter projects along with state and international projects. For the Malawi Mission Project, the chapter will be purchasing its seventh well. She suggested that in the chapter newsletter to list and explain the project when the funds are donated to it.

Also, Berto congratulated Alpha Beta for seeking to aid members who are currently in the classroom through chapter programs they can use in their teaching and for which they can earn PD's. Because the chapter has excellent programs, those program ideas should be sent to the Lambda State Educational Excellence Committee to be posted on the website.

Membership Chair Louann Harms (Fairbury) noted that the chapter awarded three early career educator grants of \$100 each to non-tenured teachers in 2016 along with bags of supplies to three other teachers. She gave suggestions for seeking and keeping members such as taking treats and information to the teachers' workrooms, recognizing teaching members during Teacher Appreciation Week, and sending notes to those who are not regularly attending meetings.

The Communications and Publicity Committee was recognized for consistent publication of chapter activities in local newspapers and the state *Newscaster* along with producing the *ABC Update* newsletter and yearbook. Early in 2016, Webmaster Michelle Harms (Pontiac) set up the chapter website and reported that grant applications and health tips have recently been added.

For Professional Affairs, Karen Harms (Fairbury) said that information has been advertised in newspapers and on the website for applying for Alpha Beta recruitment grants of \$200 each for a high school senior girl and a college junior woman who plan to become teachers. The application for the Florence A. Cook Recruitment Grant from the state is due January 10. Visitor Berto suggested that the chapter track past grant winners as potential members for the chapter.

Lou Ann Jacobs (Normal), reporting for Legislation, said the legislature will begin a veto session next week. As a result of the current election, Speaker of the House Madigan no longer possesses a "super majority."

Music Chair Elaine Cunningham (Minonk) shared the importance of music at each meeting. Also she invited members to attend the Village-Aires Christmas concert, "A Holiday Invitation," at St. Paul's United Church of Christ on Sat., Nov. 19, at 7 pm and Sun., Nov. 20, at 3 pm.

The next meeting will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Pontiac on January 7 at 9:00 am and ending with a potluck lunch. The program features Jari Lynn Oncken (Minonk) who will lead a discussion of *Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker*, a novel based on the life of Elizabeth Keckley who made the dresses for Mary Todd Lincoln. PD's will be available and guests are welcome.

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 women. For more information, visit the website at www.dkg.org or call Carol Hughes at 309-923-7370.

Pictured in photo:

Literacy Chair Jan Masching (Dwight), President Barb Baumann (Minonk) discuss chapter successes and goals with State Visitor Christine Berto.

