

Illinois Teacher of the Year Speaks at Alpha Beta Chapter

by Carol Hughes, Roanoke

On November 17, Alpha Beta Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International met at the Chenoa Family Restaurant. Lindsey Jensen, who teaches English at Dwight High School, shared the process for her selection, her duties, the obstacles, and the delights as Illinois Teacher of the Year 2018.

In her current role Jensen says she has met so many fabulous educators from Illinois and the country as she moves from being a teacher in her classroom part of the time to other duties like being honored at the White House, having lunch with Vice-President Mike Pence and his wife, and speaking at meetings around Illinois and other parts of the country. As an ambassador for Illinois teachers, she feels that no one is better to advocate for students and teaching than teachers themselves.

Recommended by the Dwight Police Chief, Jensen believes that teachers need to cultivate partnerships not only with students but with their communities as well. She and her students, who developed a passion for the Special Olympics started raising funds for this event, and the police along with many people from the Dwight community helped raise funds.

Pres. Nancy Wier (Eureka) announced that Alpha Beta and Beta Chapters have been awarded a stipend for \$1,000 from the Lambda State Foundation for Educational Studies. Members Louann Harms (Fairbury) and Jan Masching (Dwight) helped write the application with Beta Chapter. The funds will be used to purchase book bags, school supplies, and books for the Mom and Me Camp program which connects 45 children with their mothers housed at either Lincoln or Decatur Correctional Centers.

Further, Pres. Wier listed the chapter's goals for the 2018-20 biennium: Leadership – support new officers and committee chairs, Membership – add four new members and two collegiate members, Programs – have at least two programs each year that focus on useful ideas and activities for the classroom, and Marketing – advertise meetings and programs. How these goals would be achieved was discussed by members.

Communications Chair Carol Hughes (Roanoke) informed members that no longer will the **DKG NEWS** from International be mailed to members. It now can be accessed on the International website (dkg.org).

Carol Hoffman (Fairbury) distributed information for members who wish to apply for scholarships and stipends.

Legislation Chair Lou Ann Jacobs (Normal) shared that the legislature is now in the veto session which appears to be a brief one. She commented that Governor-Elect Pritzker has appointed both Democrats and Republicans on his administrative team. Sara Kaufman (Eureka) said members should seek to have the recent bill that passed and capped teachers' raises at 3% rather than at 6% repealed. Legislators who support the 6% cap will be introducing HB 5937 and SB 3622 probably in January.

The chapter agreed to sponsor gift card trees to raise funds in the Chapter Mart at the state convention in Decatur in April. Members were encouraged to donate gift cards, and Barb Baumann (Minonk) volunteered to create the displays of cards.

Alpha Beta's next meeting will be at the Chenoa Family Restaurant on February 9 at 9:00 am. The program "Sustainable Farming" will be presented by Marty Travis, a Central Illinois farmer.

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: Bert Kinate (Forrest) and Kay Hammer (Fairbury) surround Lindsey Jensen (Dwight) with thanks for her passionate speech about her duties as the Illinois Teacher of the Year.