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Report

2020-2022 Officers

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Myra Sowder

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Janice Walker

Zeta News

DKG Mission statement: The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

March 2021 - PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Engage, Empower, Involve

Greetings Sisters!

As I write this month's letter to you all, two thoughts are running through my brain: 1. Tomorrow marks the anniversary of our last "normal" day before shutting down for the pandemic. 2. We will be having the DKG TNSO Conference this year!

I think back to March 12th, last year, when we thought about the fact that the Friday before Spring Break would be Friday the 13th, and our children were going to be IN-SANE. We had no idea that when they cancelled school on that Friday, to give us an early start on Spring Break, and rope in the illness, that that would be the last time we saw many of our students and coworkers before the beginning of this school year. So much has changed: face masks, more discussion about hand washing, "socially-distancing", Teams, and Zoom were all things that we had never really thought about or talked about prior to the onset of the pandemic. Now they're part of our daily experience.

At the same time, I feel hopeful for a return to a more "normal" new norm. With the invention of vaccines, and now more availability for people to get vaccinated, I feel like we're on the cusp of being able to see each other again, in person! As always, I remain hopeful, and grateful for the opportunity to get vaccinated and see each of you, face to face.

I think these improvements have played a major role in our state leadership deciding to go on with our state conference! There will still be some changes (due to the pandemic). We will not be meeting at Sewanee, as we traditionally do. We will be gathering at the Grand Hyatt in Nashville. And we will be shortening the conference to a two-day affair. These changes will allow us to space out, and yet be together. So with that said, TNSO Conference will be June 4-5th, and the registration form will be available soon! There will be a flat rate of \$225, which will include all meals, our keynote speaker, our breakout sessions, PD credit, and our Service of Remembrance. Additionally, we'll be sending out information regarding reservations and group rates soon. Stay tuned!

If you are able, I would love to see you at the DKG Conference in June. If not, then hopefully next year. In the meantime, please continue to take care and keep the faith.

Warmly,

Terry

March Meeting

Date: March 22, 2021

Myra will open the Zoom at 4:30 for anyone who wants to come early just to chat and catch up.

Time: Social time 4:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. meeting

Place: Zoom

Program: TN Women of Vision and Courage

Speaker: Judy Arnold Rogers

Inspiration: Ursula Thompson

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83194157998?pwd=Zm9YOWdaSmpMazkrODY5ZnF1c2M2Zz09>

Myra Sowder's email sent on March 4th

Telephone

Members, **please return the callers' calls**, even if you are not making a reservation. A returned call lets the caller know that the message was received.

Calendar 2021



Chapter Meetings

March 22 - TN Women of Vision and Courage - Judy Arnold Rogers - Zoom

April 3 - DKG Olympics - see email sent on March 5th for details

April 13 - Water colors Techniques - see email sent on March 5th for details

April 26 - Induction and Founders' Day Celebration - WHBC

May 10 - End-of-the Year Wrap Up - WHBC

May 19 - Children's Festival of Reading - World's Fair Park - 10:00 - 3:00

June 3 - 5, 2021 - 85th Tennessee State Convention

International Conference 2021

Portland Oregon - July 7 - 10

San Antonio, TX - July 21 - 24

International Convention 2022

New Orleans, LA - July 12 - 16

International Convention 2024

National Harbor, Maryland - Gaylord National

International Convention 2026

Aurora, Colorado - Gaylord Rockies

Concerns

Keep in our thoughts and prayers:

Wynona Dye

Polly Anderson

Bonnie Burnett's husband

Terry Sharp

Teachers

Sympathy

Tracy Cagle and Wilma Myers in the passing of their husbands

Zeta Phone List



Send changes in telephone, address, cell, work numbers to Connie Silvey
cfsilvey@bellsouth.net

Yearbook

Please send yearbook corrections to:
Tami Smith -
tami.smith@knoxschools.org or
1609 Cherrybrook Dr. 37912

Next Month's Meeting

Date: April 26, 2021

Time/Place: Zoom meeting 4:30

social time and 5:00 meeting or

in person meeting at

West Hills Baptist Church

409 N Winston Rd

Program: Introduction and Founder's
Day Celebration

Speaker: Martha McCluen

Inspiration: Rosemary Calvert



March



NEWSLETTER

Articles, information etc. needed for future newsletters. Please submit to Connie Silvey at
cfsilvey@bellsouth.net by the 10th of each month. Thanks, Connie



Scholarships and Awards

Remember: If you have received an award this past school year, please notify: Mary Brockett or Nancy Irwin.
(marybrockett@gmail.com) or
(artirwin@yahoo.com).

Legislation

Bill Hagerty: hagerty.senate.gov
 Marsha Blackburn: blackburn.senate.gov
 Tim Burchett: burchett.house.gov
 US Congress 2nd district

Board of Education

Terri Coatney, Executive Assistant:
 Terri.coatney@knoxschools.org
 Chair - Susan Horn
 Susan.horn@knoxschools.org

Knox Co Commission

Commission@knoxcounty.org
 Chair - Larsen Jay-lasen.jay@knoxcounty.org

Check out Web Sites



Zeta

dkgxizeta.weebly.com

Tennessee State Organization

www.tndkg.org

Checkout EEC Corner on the Tennessee State website. You will find several programs and projects completed by other chapters that may be of interest.

DKG International

dkg.org

WANTED:

NEW-MEMBERS

I challenge each member to bring a prospective member to our next meeting.



Meet Zeta member Sara Key

I grew up in Southern Middle Tennessee (Franklin County). I graduated from Franklin County High School, graduated from MTSU with a BS in Vocational Home Economics and I have a MS from UTK in Special Education.

I worked with the University of Tennessee Extension Service as a Home Agent, and retired from Knox County Schools in 2001. Upon retirement I started quilting and have taught quilting classes at several shops and also at the quilt fest in Pigeon Forge. I have been in charge of the quilts at the Tennessee Valley fair for several years until retirement in 2019.

Walter and I got married and moved to Knoxville in 1962. We have 2 children, 3 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. We were married for 54 years when he died in 2016. Our son died in a plane crash in 2004.

I have been a member of Zeta since 1995. I have served as Vice President, President, and on many other committees through the years. Events that I have attended include Leadership Management, Advanced Management, Legislative Symposium, Officer Training, Xi State Convention, and received the Order of the Rose in 2012.

I have enjoyed all the friends I have met through my years with Zeta and DKG.

These ladies are all wonderful, caring people. Hopefully that will be by next fall.

Ladies stay safe and healthy.

**ZETA DUES
COLLECTION
TIME**

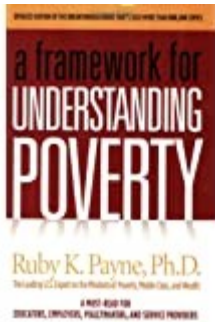
\$ 85.00 Active Member

\$ 40.00 Reserve Member

**You may start paying your ZETA Dues
beginning April 1, 2021 through
May 31, 2021. I have to pay them
by June 15, 2021. Please mail to
[Myra Sowder](#)
[8045 Majors Road, Corryton, TN 37721](#)**



Book Corner



People in poverty face challenges virtually unknown to those in middle class or wealth--challenges from both obvious and hidden sources. The reality of being poor brings out a survival mentality, and turns attention away from opportunities taken for granted by everyone else.

If you work with people from poverty, some understanding of how different their world is from yours will be invaluable. Whether you're an educator--or a social, health, or legal services professional--this breakthrough book gives you practical, real-world support and guidance to improve your effective-

ness in working with people from all socioeconomic backgrounds. Since 1995 *A Framework for Understanding Poverty* has guided hundreds of thousands of educators and other professionals through the pitfalls and barriers faced by all classes, especially the poor.

Carefully researched and packed with charts, tables, and questionnaires, *Framework* not only documents the facts of poverty, it provides practical yet compassionate strategies for addressing its impact on people's lives.

March 10, 2021, Meeting of the Knox County Board of Education

In recognition of the many challenges that educators have faced during the pandemic, the State of Tennessee allocated 2.5 million dollars to Knox County Schools to be used as a one-time incentive for certified personnel covered under the BEP. This would have meant that only these employees would receive approximately \$500 each. (If all educators were included, each would receive about \$400.) Superintendent Thomas and his senior staff felt that all certified employees should be recognized and that classified employees should receive recognition as well. The recommendation to the Board of Education was that local funds be added so that certified employees would receive a \$1000 incentive payment and classified employees would receive \$500. The motion was made to accept the recommendation and the Board voted unanimously to approve it.

(It was explained that this money is being called an incentive rather than a bonus because bonuses are taxed at 25%.)

Submitted by Kaye Williams

Legislative Symposium Report – Tricia Jones



The DKG Tennessee State Organization (TSO) Legislative Symposium was held by Zoom March 2, 2021. Six of the 94 attendees were Zeta members: Tracy Cagle, Dr. Tricia Jones, Terry Sharp, Connie Silvey, Myra Sowder, and Kaye Williams. Tracy Cagle and Myra Sowder are on the Tennessee State Legislative Committee and worked to plan this year's symposium.

Dr. Beverly Hall, TSO President, welcomed everyone, as did Peggy Monroe, Legislative Committee Chair. Commissioner of Education Dr. Penny Schwinn also welcomed the attendees. Dr. Schwinn noted that it had been a hard year for teachers, commended teachers for adapting so well to virtual teaching and all the changes required to teach during the pandemic, and expressed her thanks for all their hard work. She noted that an increase in teacher salaries for 2021-22 is forthcoming.

Tracy Cagle introduced Keynote Speaker Lisa Henderson, former Legislative Liaison for the Tennessee Counseling Association, who spoke on Legislative Advocacy. Ms. Henderson noted that we should get to know our elected officials, and speak regularly with them so they are familiar with us when an issue arises where we need their help. She urged us to know the difference between state and federal legislation, so we can contact the correct elected official for a particular matter. It doesn't help to contact a state representative for an issue that requires federal legislation. The Tennessee General Assembly website at capitol.tn.gov is a good resource for locating elected officials as well as keeping up with bills that are being presented.

A panel of Tennessee state legislators discussed questions that had been submitted by TSO DKG members. Those on the panel were Rep. Vincent Dixie (D, Nashville), Senator Raumesh Akbari (D, Memphis), Rep. John Clemmons (D, Nashville), and Rep. John Ragan (R, Oak Ridge). Dixie and Ragan are on the House Education Instruction and the House Education Instruction Subcommittee. Clemmons and Ragan are on the House Education Administration Committee as well as the House K-12 Subcommittee. Sen. Akbari is 2nd Vice-Chair of the Senate Education Committee.

Highlights of the Special Session on Education were discussed, including a state screener for literacy and the "hold harmless" legislation for testing this year. Teachers will not have to use the 2020-21 TCAP scores for their evaluations if the scores would lower their LOE (Level of Overall Effectiveness). However, districts must test at least 80% of their students. Rep. Clemmons noted that he had introduced a bill which would allow for no testing this year, but it was not passed. He also stated that he had introduced a bill to provide hazard pay for teachers this school year, but that bill failed.

Rep. Clemmons said that he thinks education is not fully funded and the BEP (Basic Education Program) needs to be raised, but Rep. Ragan disagreed, saying that the BEP is fully funded, noting that no matter how much is budgeted, there always is a need or a desire for more.

Another question concerned aliens being able to pay in-state tuition, but no bill to provide for this has been introduced. The panel also discussed the summer program which must be developed by all school systems this year to help students gain grade-level skills, due to the concern of lower scores after the pandemic's disruption of school. The summer program as legislated must be developed for children with lower test scores, but it was noted that a school system could choose to include all students if desired.