**Delta Kappa Gamma, Xi State**

**Iota Chapter News**

 Volume 29, Issue 1 September 2013

 *Joy Branham, Editor*

***President’s Message***

*Hi Gals,*

I’m so excited to begin a new year. Remember how much fun we had at the April meeting with Martha’s wonderful hats and informative program about the women in our history. This should encourage us to be more active in education. Thanks so much to Rosemary for bringing Cathy Williams. We were revived by her great musical performance. Thanks to Jo Ann for her excellent report on legislative issues. We were excited to see our new website ([iotaxistateweeblycom.weebly.com](http://iotaxistateweeblycom.weebly.com/)*.*) with Brenda Moriarty as our new webmaster. Thanks, Brenda, for all your hard work. I believe that this meeting energized all of us.

We had a great planning meeting in May. The board worked hard to bring you a good program this year. There will be some changes in format this year. Let us know what you think.

We enjoyed XI State Convention in June. Thanks to Pat Cox, Joan Holt, Jo Ann Smith, Val Manley, and Joy Branham who helped with the President’s reception for which our chapter was responsible. I appreciate you working so hard for our chapter. The Order of the Rose ceremony for Pat Cox was wonderful. Pat, we are so proud of you. Thanks to Joan for promoting Pat for this award. Also a special thanks to Jo Ann Smith for recognition of her contributions to the Vision Foundation.

Our next meeting will be a covered dish picnic Thursday, September 5, at 5:30, at Eastman Recreation Park at Bays Mountain. Please come and have some outdoor fun. In case of rain, we will have our fun get-together at Litz Manor Church.

Sue Fischer’s knee surgery should be scheduled near the end of this month. She has to have some tests first. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Please contact your Hostess Group Chairperson to inform us if you will or will not attend the next meeting. Also inform us if you know of illness, death, or other important information about our members. We need to support each other. Hostess Chairpersons, please, email me (tahworks1@gmail.com ) the names of the persons planning on attending.

Membership dues are $75.00 this year. Please pay at the first meeting or mail your dues to Sue Fischer 234 DeLee Drive, Kingsport, TN 37663. When dues at not paid on time, Sue has a problem reporting to the state and national DKG.

 *In loving kindness and peace,*
 ***Trish Harris***

**Iota Chapter Officers 2013-2014**

PRESIDENT Trisha Harris Recording SECRETARY Pat Cox

Corresponding SECRETARY Brenda Moriarty

TREASURER Sue Fischer

MEMBERSHIP Rachel O'Dell

YEARBOOK Linda Fontaine

PROGRAM Martha Rhoton

***September Meeting***

 Our first meeting of the 2013-14 year will be a picnic! Bring a covered dish (any sort!) and meet us at **5:30 p.m. at** **Eastman Recreation Picnic Area at Bays' Mountain,  Shelter #20 on Thursday, September 6th.** Hostess Group 2 is in charge. (If it’s raining, we’ll move the meeting to **Litz Manor Baptist** **Church**.)

 We will be assembling **welcome bags** for new teachers, so bring anything you want to contribute—pens and pencils, notepads, stickers, candy, erasers, post-it notes, Magic Markers, crayons, etc. You’ve been there, so you know what would excite a new teacher!

 At this meeting we will also be **planning** our direction for the coming year. Please come and contribute!

 [Most of us end up with no more than five or six people who remember us. Teachers have thousands of people who remember them for the rest of their lives.](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/a/andyrooney194052.html)
 **--**[**Andy Rooney**](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/a/andy_rooney.html)

***Iota Website—***

<http://iotaxistateweeblycom.weebly.com/>

 Don’t forget that our chapter website is up and running! News is posted there, along with all kinds of good stuff about our chapter, especially helpful if you’re not quite sure *(like me!)* where you’ve stashed your Iota handbook!

 And, if you have any news to add, don’t forget to let Brenda Moriarty know!

***Legislative Watch***

 **From US Forum of DKG International**

**RAPE IN THE MILITARY**

The sexual assault of men and women in the military has been brought to public attention off and on since 1991 when the Tailhook scandal took place and has been a continuing problem which again received a good deal of publicity within the last five years in a report by Cokie and Steven Roberts. It has gotten more attention recently following the filing of sexual assault charges against two men who were designated military watch dogs to protect soldiers against rape. A recently aired NBC News report states “The Pentagon released startling new statistics showing that sexual assaults in the military rose by 35 percent since 2010. The troubling report was compounded by news that an Air Force officer in charge of the branch’s sexual assault prevention program was recently arrested and charged with sexual assault.”
 Trina McDonald, a naval veteran and herself a rape victim, has recently presented the U.S. Senate with a petition containing 113,000 signatures which asks for changes in the Uniform Code of Military Justice that would

remove the decision to prosecute sexual charges from the chain of command. It is estimated that over 26,000 sexual assaults annually most of which are not reported.
 On May 23, 2013, Senators Claire McCaskill (D-Missouri), and Susan Collins, (R-Maine), and Representatives. Nikki Tsongas (D-Massachusetts) and Michael Turner (R-Ohio), introduced bills in the Senate and House, respectively, they believe will help empower victims of sexual assault while making it tougher for perpetrators to get away with their actions. The bills would prohibit commanding officers from overturning or dismissing court-marshaled convictions on sexual assault., It would

 1) mandate input from the victim;

 2) mandate dishonorable discharge or worse for anyone convicted of rape, sexual assault, forcible sodomy, or an attempt at any of those offenses; and

 3) it would eliminate the five-year statute of limitations in pressing charges for sexual offenses. Removing the five year limitation for prosecution of sexual offences should enable victims who were punished for being assaulted to finally get justice. This bipartisan support should give the bill a good chance at being passed.

 **IMMIGRATION REFORM AND EDUCATION** The Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR) bill (S.744, H.R.490 ) is currently being marked up in the Senate which means that it will probably be out of committee and on the floor of the Senate for action before long.

What this can mean for teachers and education was apparent when an immigration sweep resulted in over 500 illegal aliens being deported. Although the parents were deported, most of their children were born in this country and were, therefore, U.S. citizens who could not be deported.

What happens to those children and the schools they attend? The parents may elect to take the children out of the country with them or they may arrange to leave the children in the care of a local person. In any case this is an emotional stress on the children and by extension on the teachers and students in the school.

When such a large number of adults are deported at least some will take their children with them and classes in local schools are decimated. In the case mentioned above it was estimated that about 25% of the children in a small local school were affected.

 

***Changes to Newsletter—***

 It seems like everybody is feeling the money pinch these days, and that includes our chapter finances. The hard truth is that whenever we lose members, for whatever reason, our chapter bank account gets smaller. We receive just a few dollars for each member (*most of it goes to Xi State and International)*, so losing any of it hurts, although losing the women themselves hurts much more!

 Because of this, we are always looking for ways to cut corners. Moving most of our meetings to Litz Manor Baptist Church has helped (*and we* ***so*** *appreciate them!*). This year we are going to try another cost-cutting measure.

 If you have an email address, I will be sending your Iota newsletter via **email** instead of the postal service. Please feel free to print out the newsletter and file it in your notebook or wherever, of course! If you do not fool with electronic communications, then your newsletter will come in the mail, just as before.

 Please let me know what you think of this. If you have an email address and still would rather have the newsletter arrive in hard copy, just let me know. If you are getting a hard copy and figure I don’t have your email address, please let me know that too!

 My email address is joybranham@hotmail.com. My home address is 6443 Clinch Mountain Road, Eidson, TN 37731.

My telephone number is 423-944-3108. I don’t have an answering machine right now (*it died*!), so until I get a new one if you want to talk to me just keep calling!

**Iota *Imagination Library* Booth at Appalachian Fair**

 How many years have we been manning the Imagination Library booth at the Gray Fair? I’ve lost count! This was **Joan Holt’s** project from the very start, and my hat is off to her for her dedication and hard work!

 We didn’t sign up quite as many children this year, which makes me think that we have reached so many in Sullivan County that there aren’t that many left to sign up! The two afternoons that I was there I kept asking people to sign up their children and many, many times I heard “We already get them and they just love the books!” But, of course, we did sign up quite a few and felt good about starting the process of making sure that these children own books and know the excitement of a new one each month.

 Our thanks to our workers this year—Joan, Val and her husband Gale, Martha, Jo Ann, Rosemary and her daughter Abby, Pam, Linda, Trish, Betty, Belinda, Brenda, and also Donna, Billie, and Karen from our neighboring chapter **Alpha Alpha** in Bristol.

**Xi State Theme for 2013-15**