**Delta Kappa Gamma, Xi State**

**Iota Chapter News**

 Volume 32, Issue 5 March 2017

 *Joy Branham, Editor*

Chapter website*:* [*http://iotaxistateweeblycom.weebly.com/*](http://iotaxistateweeblycom.weebly.com/)

Iota Facebook: [*https://www.facebook.com/groups/173164679376911/*](https://www.facebook.com/groups/173164679376911/)

***Iota Sisters,***

I trust that you have been thoroughly enjoying this glorious early spring weather as the crocus and daffodil emerge. While we have not been together as a group since that beautiful December meeting, DKG has been busy. On February 13, Joy Branham, Georgia Davis, Sue Thomas and I attended the **2017 Xi State Legislative Symposium in Nashville**. On Tuesday morning, February 14, we ventured to Capitol Hill to keep appointments with our legislators. We were privileged to meet with three state senators and four state representatives. As we walked the bustling halls in Legislative Plaza and the War Memorial Building and peeped into rooms where legislative committees were meeting, we were reminded of the history there. Joy has included a report of the symposium in this newsletter.

March is almost here, and our **Saturday, March 11th meeting** is approaching. We will meet in The Press Room of Food City, 300 Clinchfield Street, in downtown Kingsport at 10:00 a.m. **The cost of the soup, salad and baked potato lunch will be $12**. **Hostess Group 4** will be in charge of the inspiration and table decorations. It will be a busy meeting, so plan to arrive early so we can begin promptly at **10:00 a.m.**

For our March program, Joy has invited an impressive **panel of local authors** who will be discussing publishing methods, so have your questions ready for them. On **Tuesday, April 25th Iota Chapter will serve as a co-host for the Rolling for Readers Bunco Party and Dinner at First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall located in Kingsport on Church Circle.** Brenda Moriarty will give us full details at our meeting. Dinner will be at 6:00 P.M. and games will begin at 7:00 P.M. Cost per person is $20 or $25 at the door. All proceeds go to the **Sullivan County Imagination Library**. In addition to our attendance, Iota Chapter members have been asked to **donate snacks and Bunco prizes**. Members can bring these donations to either the March or April meeting. Martha Ward, Chair of the Membership Committee, will present the list of prospective members and they will be voted into membership. **Initiation will take place at the April meeting. Remember also to bring school supplies to fill teacher baskets** that the membership committee plans to distribute during second semester.

Our March meeting will also include our **Founder’s Day Recognition and Celebration of Life to honor Kathryn Lockett and Rosemary Smith.** Several of you have been or will be called upon to participate in these ceremonies.

**Don’t forget to call or email your Hostess Group Chair right away with your meal reservation**. Enjoy the sunshine and see you on March 11th.

***For aye, Jane***

**Iota Chapter Officers 2014-2016**

PRESIDENT Jane Bowlin

VICE-PRESIDENT Mary Shortt

Recording SECRETARY Becky Sutton

Corresponding SECRETARY Pat Cox

TREASURER Sue Fischer

MEMBERSHIP Martha Ward

YEARBOOK Linda Fontaine

WEBMASTER Brenda Moriarty

**Our March meeting is on Saturday, March 11, 10:00 AM at Food City’s Press Room. Let the March winds blow you in that direction!** This is our Founders Day meeting, and also the Ceremony of Remembrance. I’m excited about our program—a panel discussion by local authors, all of them personal friends of mine! Hostess Group 4 is in charge of table decorations. See you there!

***Highlights of December meeting—***

* Met at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.
* An organ recital was given as our December program.
* Members brought new books for donation to Girls, Inc.

***From Personal Growth and Professional Development committee—***

The Tennessee Department of Education has a long list of professional development modules offered during the **summer of 2017** including Supporting English Learners in Language Acquisition, Early Literacy, Early Numeracy, and Intervention & Differentiation in Secondary Education, which are only a sampling of this year’s offerings.   For more information as to dates, times, and districts in which classes will be offered contact:

***tn.gov/education/section/educator-resources***

***From Membership committee--***

Martha Ward has suggested that we again **bring small items to donate for new teacher goody bags.** We would like to include different schools in this month’s effort. Your donations are appreciated so much.

Also, come prepared to **nominate a fellow teacher—working or retired—for membership**. If we are going to be a viable chapter (and we are one of the oldest in the state, remember), then we are going to have to be constantly recruiting. Otherwise we will fade away and disband the same way our sister Sullivan County chapter did a few years ago. Think about **teacher friends, former members that might reinstate, wonderful teachers that your children or grandchildren have had**—all of these offer potential for membership. Nominating just **one teacher each** will give us the possibility of immense growth and new stimulation! Think hard!

***Xi State Legislative Symposium-***

Iota members **Jane Bowlin, Joy Branham, Georgia Davis, and Sue Thomas** traveled to Nashville February 13-14 to attend the **Xi State Legislative Symposium.** About 75 teachers from Tennessee were in attendance.

Monday’s event was a question-and-answer session with **Tennessee Representative Harry Brooks, chair of the House Education Committee, and Donna Cotner, Executive Director Tennessee Retired Teachers Association.** Questions asked by the teachers attending ranged from vouchers through ESSA, concealed carry of guns on campus, using the ACT test as substitute for end of year tests, restoration of the state salary schedule, grading schools on an A-F scale, low funding for higher ed, mandated recess, and lunch length!

 On Tuesday, Tennessee **Commissioner of Education Candice McQueen** addressed the group on initiatives in public education in Tennessee. Afterwards the Symposium attendees went to Legislative Plaza and the War Memorial Building at Capitol Hill to meet with local legislators and let them know of our concerns as both lifetime educators and retired teachers. **We met with Senators Rusty Crowe, Jon Lundberg, and Frank Niceley, and with Representatives Bud Hulsey, Timothy Hill, John Crawford, and Gary Hicks.**

We found them generally sympathetic to our concerns (**vouchers and charter schools, keeping payroll deductions for dues, restoring the old state salary schedule, and keeping our state retirement benefits from erosion**), even though Jon Lundberg felt that vouchers had a place in Tennessee (which was opposed by all of us), and Bud Hulsey said that he was so horrified by what he had seen when he visited Memphis that he would vote for vouchers for Memphis.

We feel that making ourselves **real faces** to our legislators is essential to gaining their understanding of our concerns as teachers. We considered our time in Nashville well spent.

***Program for March meeting—***

 Our program for this month’s meeting is one that is dear to my heart. I have asked four of my old friends who also happen to be authors to discuss their experiences in publishing.

 **Lida Quillen** is the owner of a publishing company , *Twilight Times Books,* which started out as an e-publisher but now also publishes hard copies.

 **Tom Fugate** publishes his own action adventure mysteries—the *Spy Dreams* series—in paperback, hardback, and on Kindle.

 Former librarian **Chrissie Anderson Peters,** writes poems and short stories on the Appalachian experience.

 **Liz Churchwell** writes miscellaneous fiction under various pen names. (She also happens to be one of my former students!)

 Please come and enjoy this unique experience!

***Legislative Update—***

**TITLE IX REVISITED**

**In Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 the Federal Government stated that no person should be discriminated against on the basis of sex. More recently Title IX was the basis on which the federal government weighed in on the transgender use of rest rooms in schools.**

**U.S. Attorney General Sessions as part of the Trump administration has reversed the policy dealing with use of restroom facilities when he ruled that it is a state’s right issue rather than a sexual rights issue covered by Title IX.**

**Recent fears are that this will drastically increase the number of transgender teen suicides mainly due to bullying. The teen attempted suicide rate in the general population is between five and ten percent; while the attempted suicide rate of transgender teens approaches 30%.**

***BUNCO PARTY Fundraiser for Imagination Library April 25th***

 Iota Chapter voted last Fall to help Sullivan County Imagination Library with their **Spring Bunco and Dinner, Tuesday, April 25 from 6 - 9 P. M. at First Presbyterian Church in Kingsport.**

Dinner will be soup and salad.

* SCIL members and ESI members will furnish desserts.
* ESI is going to provide the drinks and operate the Bunco game.

Would Iota Chapter be willing to help with the following?

* Sign up to attend and bring **finger/snack food** for people to eat while playing Bunco. (We would need to know **how many** to be certain we had enough snacks​.) *Note:  SCIL and ESI people will bring desserts.*
* Donate **prizes.**
* **Distribute invitations and help publicize event** with people they know and friends on Facebook.

**All help will be greatly appreciated!** Let Brenda Moriarty know how you can help.



Mail with check to:

**P.O. Box 3045 Kingsport, TN 37664**

**BUNCO PARTY REGISTRATION** **FORM**

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Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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