**Delta Kappa Gamma, TN State**

**Iota Chapter News**

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 March 2023 *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/)

**The mission of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International is to promote professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.**

***President’s Message***

 Well, spring is finally here!  I am sure most of you are looking forward to warmer weather.  I am looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting on **Thursday, April 6.**  We will have our **Area 1 Director, Pam Egeler**, attending our meeting. We will also have an initiation ceremony as we initiate our new member, **Sue Otwell**.

 Don't forget that our annual dues will be collected at this meeting as they are due this summer. We will also be collecting money for the Silent Auction at the State Convention.  **Hostess Group #1** is responsible for table decorations and the inspiration.

**Debi Pelow**

Iota President

**Iota Chapter Officers 2020-2022**

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***Next Meeting Thursday, April 6th, at the Press Room—***

 Our last meeting for the year is coming soon! This is our **initiation** meeting. Also please make sure you bring your **2023-2024 dues** at this meeting. And bring a little extra to add to the sum for putting together our Silent Auction basket!

 Thanks to **Jane Bowlin** for putting the basket together and for working with Food City to organize our meal of assorted croissants and other good stuff! Make sure to get your **reservations** in to Jane and to your Hostess Group Chair by the ***first of the week***! Otherwise you might be sitting there hungry, which we definitely don’t want to happen!

 Our project for this month is a donation to **Second Harvest Food Bank.**

***Highlights of Our March Meeting—***

* **Emily Thompson** talked about her job as Activities Director for the city of Kingsport.
* Donations were brought for **Isaiah House**.
* **Mary Shortt** was nominated for ***Order of the Rose***.

***Personal Growth and Professional Development—***

 Professional development courses and cohorts are open for registration for teachers in  the Sullivan County school system.  **Cohorts provide 18 hours of professional development while courses offer 9 hours**.  Examples of topics available include New TN Science Standards, Instruction and Portfolio (Pre k-2), Creating Cross Curricular Text Sets, and The Google Classroom.  For more information go to [www.sullivank12.net/professional-development/](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.sullivank12.net%2Fprofessional-development%2F&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cb3d205da6eff4cb7b72208db2943e6bd%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638149143829078479%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Cpx6C25a3nyXBW6ZEBgtuwqPpOZoJ%2Bn8H2vX8103xTs%3D&reserved=0)

***Legislative Concerns—***

 Again the spectre of a war against public schools and public school teachers, **including retired teachers,** has raised its ugly head! There is now in the state legislature a bill specifically designed to make **automatic payroll and retirement dues deductions illegal for teachers** (not for any other group!). That means if you are a teacher member of your local Education Association or a retired teacher member of the Retired Teachers Association **your dues will no longer be automatically paid**—you will have to write a check each time.

 What this will result in is a drastic reduction of Education Association members—it’s such a hardship to write a check, isn’t it!!! And what that will ultimately mean is that **our organizations will have lost their influence** in Nashville. That is the influence which keeps class size workable (*there was a bill this year to eliminate class size limits!)*; that is the influence that keeps our retirement base secure (*we are only one of 6 states with a guaranteed cost-of-living raise);* that is the influence that is fighting the privatization of public schools so that Hillsdale College can enrich its coffers on the backs of our children!

 **Please let your legislators know that abusing our public education system if not an option!**