Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Meeting

Delta Sigma Chapter

Induction of new members

September 29, 2015 6 p.m.

Boger City United Methodist Church, Lincolnton, NC

Dana Ayers opened the meeting with a verse from Proverbs 22 and asked members to think back to their first day of teaching. She reminded members that we became educators because "teaching and educating is who we are...Our treasures will be the ones in our hearts."

Brenda Kinney delivered the invocation telling members educators are "in good company" with the Savior of the world who was also a teacher and who had a soft spot for children. Kinney said, "When He looked into their eyes, he saw faith. Take heart in the fact that Jesus Christ has walked in your path as a teacher." Following the invocation and a catered dinner, Donna Jolley led the initiation ceremony for new members: Diana Carpenter, middle school director for Lincoln County Schools; Katie Crocker, teacher Kiser Intermediate; Kennan Eaddy, guidance counselor at Battleground Elementary; Kristen Reynolds, teacher Pumpkin Center Primary; Kesha Ruppe, instructional facilitator at West Lincoln Middle; Julie Tipton, special education at Love Memorial Elementary; and Kelly Withrow, assistant principal at Pumpkin Center Primary.

Libby Fletcher introduced the program speaker Dr. Sherry Hoyle, who is in her fifth year as superintendent of Lincoln County schools. Dr. Hoyle showed members statistical evidence of how the county is working with fewer teaching positions. This year student enrollment is at 11,695. In 2008-2009, Lincoln Country had 577 state-paid positions. Today that number of state paid positions has dropped to 522; therefore, the county is working with fewer state positions at the same number of schools.

She explained how teachers need to be attentive to politics. North Carolina is 50th in teacher salary and per pupil expenditure. While some positions have benefited, some legislative actions have caused problems such as hiring retirees. For example, in order for rehired retirees to remain on the retiree health plan, they may not work more than 30 hours per week. This results in the administrator having to hire two people for the same job. While recently approved in the budget, had the state not come through with a plan to keep driver's education, Lincoln County would have had to come up with upwards of $240,000 to fund the program.

Another concern is how the state combined textbooks and digital resources so that now monies that would have gone to buying books must be shared to fund digital resources as well. Unsure about reports that the legislation may be off the calendar, Dr. Hoyle reiterated concerns about House Bill 539 allowing charter schools to have access to specific funds currently sent to local school districts. (See email sent by Elaine Jenkins on Sept. 25, 2015, with information from the NC Association of School Administrators.)

Dr. Hoyle also shared that the county is celebrating in spite of legislative issues. She said for the first time in Lincoln County all four high schools have achieved a graduation rate of 90.4 % and above thanks to programs like credit recovery, and that 18 out of 21 schools met growth expectations. She thanked DKG members for not just talking about school-related issues, but for helping with their money and as role models.

President Edwina Beam brought the business portion of the meeting to order.

Following a motion by Elaine Jenkins, members approved the minutes from the June 10, 2015 meeting. Jenkins also announced that an anonymous member of the community had made a donation of $1,000 to the scholarship fund in honor of President Edwina Beam.

Kellie Goins and Wendy Mosteller delivered the Treasurer’s report with a presentation of facts about the 2015-2016 budget. Mosteller reminded members that based on Constitutional Statute Article 5 Section S, annual dues and fees should be paid no later than Oct. 31. On Nov. 1 members who have not paid dues will be dropped from the organization. For every $89 of membership dues collected, $56 of that total is sent away. For new initiates, Goins went over some of the budget line items so they would know where their money is being spent. Mosteller added that there is money available in the Grants and Aids portion of the budget for members to request in order to receive funding to attend DKG-related conferences, workshops, etc. and that members should have received an email about the budget including information about how the scholarship fund has been renamed Grants and Aid. Mosteller said with the addition of new members, she estimates an income of $5,790.42 from dues. Goins announced that the Lincoln County Public Education Foundation sent a thank you to DKG for its donation in honor of Dr. Hoyle's mother. Brenda Kinney made a motion to approve the 2015-16 budget. Following a second by Kay Wilson, the motion was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports:

 For the Program/Fine Arts Committee Libby Fletcher reported that following surgery on his leg, the son of Renee Smith is better and that Renee needs our love and support. Wanda Lutz made a motion, with a second from Pat Carpenter, that members take up a love offering to help Renee's family. The motion was approved and members made contributions. Renee's address is Renee Smith, 731 McBee Street, Lincolnton, NC 28092. Wanda Lutz reported that she has secured First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall for the chapter’s spring fashion show on April 9, 2016. Along with Cindy White and Nelva Goodson, Lutz will be contacting members with more details about the show.

* Membership Chairperson Donna Jolley thanked Boger City UMC for freely sharing its fellowship hall to accommodate chapter meetings. Church member Libby Fletcher said members could help support the church fundraisers such as the church barbecue and pumpkin patch. Secretary Tammy Price will send a thank you note to Beth Wiseman for preparing the new members' certificates free of charge. Fletcher asked members to send email addresses to her to update the yearbook. Send an additional email for nonschool-related matters. During the informal DKG gathering in January, Linda Cromer Goodson will hold a yoga session at Boger City UMC. At the November meeting, new member Kristen Reynolds will deliver a program on her visits to Africa.

 In Education Law and Policy – US Forum news, Jennifer Carroll shared updated information about the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The Senate version "Every Child Achieves Act of 2015 maintains the testing of No Child Left Behind and allows states to create their own accountability system, does not allow Title 1 funds for low income students to follow the student to other public or private schools of their choice, reinstates the 21st century community learning centers, requires states to identify low performing schools, and increases the number of school counselors and social workers. The House version "Student Success Act" retains testing in grades 3-8 and high school and eliminates AYP, requires high schools to report on graduation rates, limits charter school grants to no more than five years, and could make states and districts ineligible for federal funding if new hirees refuse to submit to a criminal background check. The Social Security Expansion Act would use the Consumer Price Index to calculate the cost of living increases in social security payments, extend to tax earners making more than $250,000 annually, and increase the average annual benefit to about $800 a year. It would not take place until 2021 if passed. In addition, there are currently two bills which could provide tax relief for educators making professional development expenses tax deductible and possibly extending tax deductions for educators which expired in 2014. Edwina Beam asked that if members contact legislators, they should keep a record of it for chapter awards.

* Jenny Dellinger from the Communications/Publicity committee reported that website address is deltasigmanc.weebly.com

 Beginning Teacher Support Committee member Laurie Sellers reported that there are still five beginning teachers who do not have mentors and that members should remember to complete their THAT volunteer hours report.

* In Parliamentarian news, in the next year Jill Eaddy will need to update the chapter's standing rules in accordance with state and international rules with clarifications in our particular chapter.

New Business:

Wendy Mosteller made a motion that the chapter accept Speak Up for Children as a community project. Becky Heavner seconded the motion which was approved unanimously. Jill Eaddy asked chapter members to sign up as volunteers to help lead tours for the project's Tour of Homes fundraiser on Friday, Dec. 11, 2015.

Following a motion by Elaine Jenkins, seconded by Libby Fletcher, members voted unanimously to accept the letters of resignation from Jackie Weaver and Ashley Weaver. Beam reminded everyone that when due to life changes, membership can be reinstated.

Annette Geymont announced that Callie Hix, the first scholarship winner, had sent a thank you note to DKG for the $250 awarded to her following her graduation.

Before adjourning the meeting at 8:20p.m., Beam closed with these comments: " I am excited about 2015-2016 Delta Sigma...I just want us to feel connected to each other as sisters, enjoy this relationship and chapter and not feel as if it is a burden and an extra responsibility. We are here to support each other no matter the situation or circumstances. My BT1 sent me this along with his teacher favorite list: 'We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.' -Franklin D. Roosevelt 32nd president of the United States. Our state president's motto is 'Create the future' Through Imagining, Inspiring, and Igniting.'"

**Members Present**   **Members Absent**

Dana Avery Judy Shuford Peggy Andrews

Dana Ayers Cindy White Frankie Beam

Edwina Beam Kay Wilson Becky Burke

Elaine Boysworth Samantha Campbell

Pat Carpenter Deanna Dunn

Jennifer Carroll **New Initiates Present** Jane Goodson

Jenny Dellinger Diana Carpenter Nelva Goodson

Jill Eaddy Katie Crocker Rhonda Harrill

Libby Fletcher Kennan Eaddy Susan McConnell

Annette Geymont Kristen Reynolds Jane Morton

Kellie Goins Kesha Ruppe Denise Patterson

Rhonda Hager Julie Tipton Jeri Rookstool

Becky Heavner Kelly Withrow Kelly Rudisill

Sherry Hoyle Renee Smith

Melanie Huss Darla Stines

Elaine Jenkins Phyllis Talllent

Donna Jolley Glenda Walker

Judy Jones Linda Yoder

Brenda Kinney

Wanda Lutz

Sara Miller

Wendy Mosteller

Tammy Price

Gayle Reid

Betsy Rinehardt

Crystal Rudisill

Laurie Sellers