Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Meeting

Delta Sigma Chapter

November 12, 2015 5 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Faith Building, Lincolnton, NC

Hosted by the Communications/Publicity Committee, the meeting began with a greeting from Judy Jones and the invocation by Tammy Price. Elaine Boysworth presented a special “Get Acquainted” activity which led members on a search around the room to collect autographs from those who could respond to certain statements. Members, seated at tables decorated with fall flower baskets and bountiful cornucopia, enjoyed refreshments and programs decorated by WLMS students. Libby Fletcher introduced speaker and DKG member Kristen Reynolds, who shared photographs and facts on “Education and Trials in Uganda”.

Located in the eastern part of Africa near Lake Victoria and bordering Sudan, Uganda spends $34. 8 million a year on educational needs compared to $318.9 million spent in the United States. According to Reynolds, life expectancy there reaches to about 54 years old, while in the US people can expect to live until 78 or 79. Uganda’s main exports are coffee and tea. Citizens speak English as well as five other languages with different dialects. The country’s main religions are Christianity, Islam, and traditional Ugandan practices. Through pictures Reynolds illustrated how difficult it is for her to see the living conditions there and then to return home to the opulence of America.

Focusing her talk on education, Reynolds explained that the literacy rates in Uganda are low, ranging from 56. 5 percent for females and 30.7 percent for males. Only 70 percent of the population there enrolls in primary schools which educate children to what we in the US would translate to fifth grade. Then enrollment drops to 11.5 percent for secondary school. Students there must pay for their educational needs. The few government-run schools lack in quality; therefore, most Ugandan children go to privately-run schools on sponsorships from Western organizations. “These kids know it’s a privilege to be at school,” Reynolds added.

For those who would like to help the Ugandans without traveling to the country, Reynolds recommended that members contact Sole Hope, an NC organization which specializes in assisting Ugandans with shoes. Reynolds explained how parasites from the ground often invade the bodies of children there because the children are shoeless and sleep on the ground. The procedure for removing the parasites is painful, said Reynolds, who actually assisted in this process.

Reynolds, her husband Travis, and some of their friends went through an online organization at [www.visitingorphans.org](http://www.visitingorphans.org) to plan their visit. When they return, they hope to assist a minister working in Uganda with building needs and with ministering to children.

Before the business portion of the meeting, Edwina Beam called on Gayle Reid from the Scholarship Committee to report on Schools for Africa. Reid explained that there are three phases to the program. In Phase I the program assisted six countries with $50 million; by Phase II that contribution reached $70 million and 11 countries; and currently in Phase III the number of countries has climbed to 13. Sponsored by groups such as UNICEF, Schools for Africa has been working for 16 years to bring education to children. Reid said DKG is part of that effort, and during the meeting members collected $243 to donate.

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

Elaine Jenkins made a motion, with a second from Wendy Mosteller that the minutes from the September 29 meeting be approved. Following the approval of the minutes, Brenda Kinney made the motion, followed by a second from Elaine Boysworth, that the amended budget be approved. The finance committee recommended that the budget be amended due to the resignation of two more members. Members voted unanimously to approve the amended budget. Beam read letters of resignation from Peggy Andrews and Jeri Rookstool. Frankie Beam made a motion to accept the letters of resignation. Following a second by Kristen Reynolds, the motion was approved unanimously.

Upon Wendy Goins’ recommendation, members voted to send Jeri Rookstool’s membership dues of $89 to “Speak Up for Children” per Rookstool’s request to spend the money on a local project rather than on membership dues.

Committee Reports:

* Membership: Chairperson Donna Jolley was absent from the meeting due to medical reasons.
* Program/Fine Arts: Libby Fletcher has completed the yearbook, which Edwina Beam will be sending to members.
* Education Law and Policy/Leadership Development, US Forum: Kennan Eaddy is to be the contact person to the state committee.
* Scholarship/World Fellowship/Schools for Africa: Chairperson Renee Smith was absent due to son’s continued illness.
* Communication/Publicity: Chairperson Frankie Beam thanked Pat Carpenter for her submission of articles and photographs to *The Lincoln Times-News* and *The Lincoln Herald*.
* Beginning Teachers Support/Awards: Chairperson Laurie Sellers reminded members of the meeting at 4 p.m. at Boger City United Methodist Church on Jan. 14, 2016 to assemble packets for beginning teachers.

Chairperson Edwina Beam reminded Executive Board members of the meeting at her house on Jan. 25, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. She also noted in celebratory news that DKG member Diana Carpenter’s daughter was crowned Lincolnton High School homecoming queen and that Linda Yoder is retiring from Lincoln County Schools. In addition, Darlene Stines and Laurie Sellers renewed their National Board certifications.

In other announcements, Beam reminded members to visit the Eta State website and to look up Chapter Achievement Award to see the requirements which must be met before March 1, 2016. Committee chairs must complete chapter biennial reports (see form 54 at dkg.org) by Feb. 1, 2016. Beam also reminded members to visit dkg.org to apply for scholarships.

“Create the Future: Imagine,” the Eta convention, is scheduled for April 22-24, 2016, in Winston-Salem. Applications to lead break out sessions are now being accepted on the Eta State website.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

**Members Present**

Edwina Beam Gayle Reid

Frankie Beam Kristen Reymolds

Elaine Boysworth Crystal Rudisill

Becky Burke Kesha Ruppe

Samantha Campbell Laurie Sellers

Pat Carpenter Judy Shuford

Katie Crocker Darla Stines

Jenny Dellinger Julie Tipton

Jill Eaddy Cindy White

Libby Fletcher

Annette Geymont

Kellie Goins

Nelva Goodson

Becky Heavner

Elaine Jenkins

Judy Jones

Brenda Kinney

Sara Miller

Wendy Mosteller

Tammy Price

**Members Absent**

Dana Avery Betsy Rinehardt

Dana Ayers Kelly Rudisill

Diana Carpenter Renee Smith

Jennifer Carroll Phyllis Tallent

Deanna Dunn Glenda Walker

Kennan Eaddy Kay Wilson

Jane Goodson Kelly Withrow

Rhonda Hager Linda Yoder

Rhonda Harrill

Sherry Hoyle

Melanie Huss

Donna Jolley

Wanda Lutz

Susan McConnell

Jane Morton

Denise Patterson