



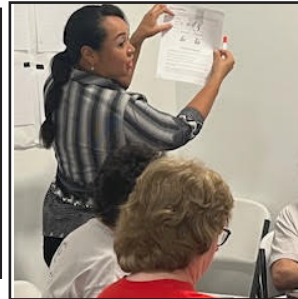
## Creative Arts Retreat helps members get “In Harmony”

On September 27-28, 2024, forty members from across the state and one from Illinois met in Jackson at the Casey Jones’ Venue at the Village. The evening began with President Marsha Brewer teaching a line dance and some hand coordination activities. Nancy Davis then led the group in singing Halloween songs to the tune of various Christmas



carols. The remainder of the evening was spent making pumpkins out of old sweaters under the direction of Betsy Word. Even the bad weather could not stop the fun and fellowship the group had that night. Saturday morning the group was still confronted by rain but settled in for a day of fun-filled activities. There were four sessions each hour from

which members could choose. These included: fall wreath making under the direction of Mildred Nelson, music with Nancy Davis, a book swap with Harriet King, quilting with Kathy Smith, calligraphy with Madeline Ferguson, and a session on fold-outs, popcorn candles, and craft boxes with Pam Heintzman, Betsy Word, and Janice Stooksberry. Members spent the time learning and enjoying each other’s company. Nancy Davis’ group even sang the song they created during the music session. Lunch was enjoyed at the Casey Jones Restaurant; then members returned to continue creating *In Harmony*.



The arts committee is now in the process of planning an outing in early spring 2025. Contact committee chair, Harriet King, if you have any suggestions.

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The Delta Kappa Gamma Society  
International promotes professional  
and personal growth of women  
educators and excellence in  
education.

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**DKG Tennessee News**

Published four times a year in September, November, February, and April by the Tennessee Organization of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. State dues for active members are \$14.00 of which \$4.00 is a subscription to the *News*.

Contributors to *DKG Tennessee News* are asked to send news as soon as it is available to ensure its placement in the next issue. Send news items for the February issue no later than **January 1, 2025**.

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**DKG In  
Harmony.....**

**Greetings!**

Who would have imagined that a hurricane which blew through Florida would ultimately cause so much death and destruction across Appalachia? The stories coming out of Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee have been heart-breaking, and some of our members and their homes and schools in this beautiful area have been impacted. Two of our East Tennessee members have created Amazon registries for online donations which are being distributed to those in the areas of most need. I have had inquiries from other state presidents asking how they can help. The needs will be ongoing, and we will keep everyone updated as to what assistance we can provide when schools reopen and more of the individual situations regarding students become known. Our thoughts and prayers also continue to be with all of those who have suffered loss.

We are so fortunate to belong to an organization that supports its members in so many ways. Most pertinent to the current situation is the DKG Emergency Fund which sends \$500.00 to members who qualify in the event of a natural disaster such as Hurricane Helene to help with immediate financial needs. DKG supports members financially in other ways as well, with scholarships and grants for professional development and classroom projects through the DKGIEF and our Xi State Vision Foundation. Several companies offer discounted services to DKG members. Leadership seminars are provided at the state and international level at a nominal cost. Our TNSO Leadership Development Committee has presented two excellent Beginning Leadership Seminars this biennium, and an Advanced Leadership Seminar is planned for February 28 – March 1, 2025. Our State Projects Committee is supporting Early Career Educators by facilitating three Survival Kit Workshops this year. The first workshop was an overwhelming success, and I know the next two will be as well. Convention workshops and our Creative Arts Retreats also offer members opportunities for personal and professional growth, and members who step up to leadership positions are supported with training and information channels such as *Leadership Links*, President to President Zoom meetings, the *International President's Page*, and Inside International Zooms.

DKG members also support so many in our schools and communities through service projects and fundraising. From our partnership with UNICEF through the GIRLS project, to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, to individual chapters meeting the needs of those in their areas, DKG has made a name for itself through serving. Above all, the support that is offered up from member to member in a "genuine spiritual fellowship" is of greatest value. We hold each other up and help to carry the load. We are a sisterhood, and united in our purposes of honoring, advancing, aiding, and encouraging one another. To quote a stanza from a familiar song,

"Loyalty and trust e'er heeding!  
Mindful of our sisters needing  
Aid and guidance from those leading  
Helpful may we be!"

Thank you for loving, caring, and serving as a member of DKG.

*In Harmony,*  
Marsha Brewer

### Chapter Strengthening

The Chapter Strengthening Committee has released the link to the Connection Survey for 2024. Chapters may earn the Connection Award certificate for completing the survey. The deadline has been extended to Thursday, October 31, 2024. To access the survey, chapter presidents can go to the TNSO website at [tndkg.org](http://tndkg.org). The survey is listed on the main page in upcoming dates.

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

**November 15, 2024 - Chapter Treasurer's Form 990-N due**

**November 16, 2024 - Survival Kit for Early Career Educators workshop**

**December 1, 2024 - Deadline to Submit Proposals to Amend Bylaws and Rules**

**December 15, 2025 - Chapter Yearbooks due**

**December 31, 2024 - Liz Whorley Bradley and Vision Foundation Grant applications due**

**February 1, 2025 - International and TNSO scholarship applications due**

**May 29-31, 2025 - TNSO State Convention, Sewanee, TN**

Chapter Yearbooks should be submitted to First Vice President Chasity Ragsdale by December 15, 2024 in order to earn points on the Maycie Award. The template can be found on the TNSO Website.

### Fall Beginning Leadership Management Seminar

Eleven rising leaders in the Tennessee State Organization gathered at Henry Horton State Park on September 13-14 to participate in the Beginning Leadership Management Seminar. Participants included Laurette Carle of Rho, Myra Corbitt of Omicron, Brenda Hall of Beta Sigma, Maritza Herod of Beta, Joy Lamb of Gamma Zeta, Anna Northcutt of Alpha Phi, Diane Speed-Johnson of Gamma Mu, Sandy Thompson of Theta, Kacey Whited of Beta Pi, Emma Wright of Alpha Phi, and Linda Wynkoop of Alpha Nu.

Beverly Smith led the group in the seminar entitled "Finding Your Part in the Harmony." Marsha Brewer served as a Myers-Briggs trainer for the event. From discovering more about their own personality types to debunking myths about parliamentary procedure, participants left with a stronger knowledge base with which to lead in their classrooms and their chapters. The Leadership Development Committee members are Belinda Juergens, chair, Melissa Blalock, Sharon Crawford, Emily Ferguson, Elaine Harper, Regina Henry, Debbie Jacobs, Melanie Richardson, Terri Tims, and Ann Winn.

Registration information will be released soon for "The Orchestration of Leadership" the Advanced Leadership Management Seminar to be held February 28-March 1. Becky Sadowski, former International DKG President, will share inspirational thoughts on leadership based on the book *The Art of Possibility*.



## Successful first “Survival Kit for Early Career Educators” Workshop

The Coleman Lodge at St. Columba Episcopal Retreat Center provided the perfect setting for the first “Survival Kit for Early Career Educators” in Bartlett, TN, on Saturday, September 21, 2024. Even the young fawn playing outside near the back porch added to the natural beauty of the venue. Sponsored by the TNSO State Projects Committee with grants from the TNSO Vision Foundation and the Cornet Fund, the workshop targeted teachers with 0-5 years of classroom

experience. Of the eighteen who had originally registered, there were twelve who participated all day and earned a certificate for six hours of professional development credit. One extra lucky participant went home with a \$50 Amazon gift card thanks to Dr.



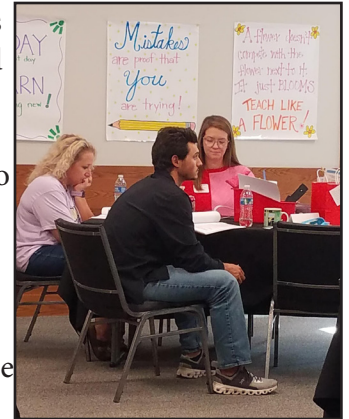
Dorrie Powell of Beta Sigma chapter. As proof of Dr. Teri Maddox’s green thumb, each teacher got to choose a living green plant to remind them to THRIVE and not merely SURVIVE in the classroom. Our TNSO president welcomed each participant to kick off the workshop and led an ice-breaker activity using candy associated with various personality traits. Nobody turned down the chance to win Starburst fruit chews, M&M’s, Snickers, or a Hershey’s chocolate bar! Wynne Anderson took the group on a guided meditation walk through the Fairy Garden on the rustic campus grounds. No animals were harmed, but some trees were (literally) hugged. After a hike back to the lodge, everyone was ready for a delicious catered lunch.



Chef Ashley got rave reviews for her culinary delights, but nobody fell asleep after such a decadent lunch as Kelli Myers kept her “students” engaged by modeling positive classroom management techniques. Door prizes included lots of

school and teacher supplies. Posters placed around the room provided inspiration and sound pedagogy.

Wynne Anderson finished the afternoon session with several techniques for stress relief. Each teacher received a booklet of positive affirmations and calming techniques to use upon return to the classroom. Marsha Brewer shared some of the benefits of DKG membership, encouraging the women educators in attendance to consider joining a local TNSO chapter.



As one participant commented on the evaluation form, “I came for the PD credits, but I learned so much more than I had expected.” Another remarked that this was the best professional development she had ever attended. The positive feedback certainly helped the State Projects Committee to prepare for the next two Survival Kit workshops on October 26 at White Bluff, TN, and on November 16 at Fall Creek Falls State Park. Mary Wadley, chair of the State Projects Committee, reported, “I could not have pulled off this workshop without the help of my State Projects Committee and Area X chapters. Mary Jo Wilson and her chapter provided dinner for the travel team on Friday night. Elise Rodriguez, Chair of the Area X Coordinating Council, brought breakfast on Saturday morning and set up a PaperPie book display from which teachers could purchase books for their own classroom libraries.

Sonja Glaser brought goody bags with contact info for prospective members in Area X. Melanie Richardson helped collate handouts and assemble notebooks for each participant. Husbands John Maddox and Harv Anderson helped with loading and unloading at St.



Columba. Carol Crittenden, Lisa Woodard, Sharon Crawford and Ceceilia Rodriguez [Mexico] were not able to attend but provided encouragement and moral support over the past year of planning and preparation for these Survival Kit workshops.

### Website News

TNSO Webmaster Sherrie Collins has created a forum on the website for members and non-members to ask education related questions and to receive help and support. TNSO officers and related personnel are currently developing the forum rules and parameters. If you have computer skills and would be willing to help moderate the forum, please email Marsha Brewer (gnash@comcast.net). This new resource can provide a valuable resource for our active educators and give members another method to voice ideas.

### Educational Excellence

Please continue sending in your excellent chapter programs and projects to be included on the EEC Corner Spotlight on the website. Also, please consider submitting one of your programs or projects for consideration for the Iris Award. This award is presented at the state convention to the best chapter program and best chapter project. You must first send your program/project in to the EEC Corner Spotlight before it is eligible for the award. The application is due April 1.

### Legislative News

On October 10, 2024, the TNSO Legislative Committee offered a ZOOM opportunity for all members to attend a presentation of the Democratic and Republican stances straight from their platforms on six issues of education; three issues of women's health, child care, and housing; and two issues of school and gun safety. Kacey Whited produced slides to guide the format and assist participants in the topics presented. She also provided the research for the education section presented by Brenda Oldham. Dr. Carolyn Tucker presented the Women's issues, and Pam Thompson presented the school and gun safety portion. TNSO President Marsha Brewer facilitated the Zoom. Peggy Monroe, the newly elected U.S. Forum SE representative, offered a brief history of women's suffrage and 12 reasons to vote. Kay Moss facilitated the follow-up discussion. Thirty-seven members attended. The recorded presentation can be found on the tndkg.org website under resources. The committee also asks members to save the date of February 25, 2025, 7pm for an in-person legislative evening with the 2024 National Teacher of the Year, Missy Testerman, at the TEA building in Nashville and the day on the hill on February, 26.

### New Special Project for the Society

Many members may be wondering about the new initiative that the Society voted to support at International Convention this summer. According to this website: <https://www.unicefusa.org/about-unicef-usa/partnerships/humanitarian-organizations/delta-kappa-gamma-society-international>, DKG is currently supporting educational access for girls in Africa through UNICEF's "Girls Initiative to Revitalize Learning and Success" (GIRLS) Fund. If you remember, we had supported the UNICEF' Schools for Africa program for 12 years. In that time, members raised over \$600,000 to provide education to children in 21 priority countries. In the past, the Society has also supported UNICEF education and literacy programs in Central America, Gambia, and Afghanistan, including raising over \$200,000 for programs in Afghanistan.

In 2024, our members voted to begin supporting UNICEF's GIRLS Fund at the International Convention. According to UNICEF this fund was launched "in response to the setbacks caused by COVID-19," and it hopes to help young women complete their education. According to UNICEF this fund "provides flexible financial support to address critical barriers to girls' education and strengthen global expertise in this field. By focusing on secondary education, the GIRLS Fund aims to help all girls complete their schooling, acquire essential life skills, and challenge harmful social norms."

Several key areas to be addressed include the following: "to better understand and overcome barriers faced by out-of-school girls, expand access through various interventions, and improve learning pathways and quality of education." The fund ensures schools provide "a supportive environment for girls, addressing their overall well-being through health and nutrition services"; the fund also "drives advocacy and leadership, ensuring that governments and stakeholders are committed to accelerating educational outcomes for girls."

## Vision Foundation News

Members of TNSO now have the opportunity to submit applications to the Vision Foundation for Professional Development Grants, Project Grants, and a Seminar Grant.

Applications and detailed information are listed on the website under the Resources tab as of October 1, 2024. All applications are due by midnight on December 31, 2024.

The Professional Development Grants, listed as the Liz Whorley Bradley Grant and the Doris Ann Hendrix Grant, are two professional grants for \$2,000 each. The recipient of each of these grants is able to attend a professional convention or conference to enhance her teaching and learning.

Last year the Vision Foundation awarded 10 Project Grants. The expectation is to have at least that number this year. Each grant of \$1,500 can be used by the recipient to create a classroom project to enhance students' learning for success. With this grant teachers can inspire students to attain higher skills by creating and implementing a unique project that challenges them.

The Seminar Grant recipient is awarded \$2,500 to be used to create a teaching situation for members and/or other teachers. For example, the 2023 grant was used by the Special Projects committee to present three sessions for early career educators of the "Survival Kit: From Striving to Thriving" workshop, one in each grand division of Tennessee.

TNSO and the Vision Foundation is committed to support and aid our members in their attainment of higher skills and dreams of enhancing our students' lives with up-to-date instruction and methods of teaching. These grants can be an avenue to "reach for the stars."

## A Note of Thanks

Dear Tennessee Sisters,

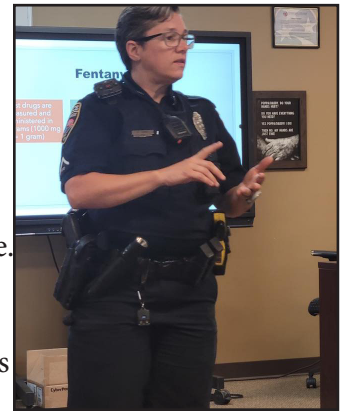
Thank you so very much for all the much needed goodies you have sent to Johnson County. The items sent have helped many families.

We are blessed and thankful you reached out to us in this difficult time.

We appreciate you.

Gamma Mu Chapter

Henderson Police Officer Danielle Cook conducted an Employer Drug Impairment Training for **Theta** at their September meeting. Officer Cook is a Drug Recognition Expert in the state. She discussed overdoses - how to recognize one and what to do - and the dangers of Fentanyl.



**Phi** chapter gave out their 2024 chapter mini grants. Grants were approximately \$250 each. Recipients included



Andrea Woodall, science teacher at Richland High School who will be purchasing a DNA model; Allie Beckman, 1<sup>st</sup> grade South Lawrence School,

who will be purchasing 1's, 10's, and 100's magnetic boards, and *Pete the Cat* and *Bad Kitty* readers;



Brianne Staggs, music teacher Leoma School, who will be purchasing musical instruments; and Sydney Smith, cosmetology teacher Lawrence County High School, who will be purchasing cosmetology equipment.



**Gamma Nu** hosted Stephanie Ellison with the Sevier County Food Ministry at their September meeting.

Members donated Ramen Noodles and Oatmeal. Pictured are Jama Franklin, Stephanie Ellison, and Teresa Loveday.

## Chapter News/ In Memoriam



**Lambda** recognized members who had been in the chapter for at least 30 years by presenting them with a 30 year pin. Pictured are Joy Yates (35 years,) Shelia Presswood (43 years,) and Mabel Greene (38 years.) Not pictured were Sandy Humble (30 years), Sherry Wilson (35 years), Nancy Fry (34 years), and Ann McCoy (48 years).

**Alpha Xi** co-president Karen Phillips presented Joyce Campbell with her 50-year membership pin at the September meeting. Joyce is an integral part of Alpha Xi service projects. She is always a willing volunteer.



**Beta Kappa** chapter enjoyed an engaging program on healthy eating from Terri Orr, Marshall County Extension agent and director of the Extension Office, at the August meeting. Members also welcomed returning member Kim Anderson, teacher at Marshall County High School; and inducted new members Julie Thomas, Federal Programs Supervisor; and retired educator Trish Hill.



Retired **Zeta** members showered active chapter members with two “Goodie Bags” filled to the brim with snacks at the August meeting. Each retired member brought thirty snacks each and made and decorated the thirty “Goodie Bags.” Each of Zeta’s fifteen active teachers received two bags, one for them to enjoy and another bag to give to a prospective member in their schools.



### Diana Gail Roberts Collins

February 23, 2024

Inducted into Omicron in 2013, Diana was currently serving as Chapter President at the time of her passing. An active member of her chapter, she was willing to help in any capacity. Diana was a graduate of Lexington High School and continued on to Union University, the University of Tennessee at Martin, and Tennessee State University. She spent 36 years in education as a teacher, principal, and director of schools. She was a member of the Wildersville-Beaver Ruritan Club and a member of First Baptist Church.

### Patsy Ann King Cunningham

September 25, 2024

Patsy graduated from Medina High School in 1957 and earned her BA Degree from Union University. Her math teaching career stretched over TN, FL, and TX for the next 50 years. Patsy was proud of the fact that she was the first female in the US to teach at an all male prison, was a 50-year member of Delta Kappa Gamma, and joked, “I’ve been to 13 different countries, been blessed by the Pope twice, but I’m still a Baptist.” She was the Director of the Academic Assistance Center at Jackson State Community College and also personally tutored hundreds of students in math, coming early, staying late, and working weekends to make sure they were successful.

She served as the President of her local DKG chapter in Florida and was president of Alpha Omicron Chapter in Jackson for two terms. She received the Order of the Rose in 2003 and transferred to Beta Eta chapter in Jackson.

She attended seven DKG international conventions and six regional conferences.

She loved traveling, visiting all 50 states. She also enjoyed scrapbooking, writing letters to shut-ins, crossword puzzles, and Sudoku.



## In Memoriam

### **Virginia Lou Bowers** **September 27, 2024**

Virginia, fondly known as Ginny, was inducted into Alpha Epsilon in May 1988. Her membership spanned 36 years. She served on the Communications and Marketing Committee and supported the Read to Me Program for newborns and the New Educator Program. Ginny was an elementary school teacher in the Oak Ridge School system for over 30 years. She had a strong desire to make a difference in the lives of students. Her dedication to her students was evident in everything she did and extended well beyond the classroom. She taught children's Sunday School at First Baptist Church for many years. Ginny was known as a beacon of light and a joy to many.

### **Dr. Sharon Brock Perkins** **August 20, 2024**

Sharon served on five Beta Phi committees during her membership. Inducted in 2008, she moved to reserve status in 2018. Sharon taught for 40 years primarily in kindergarten. She was a member of Jacksboro Church of Christ.

### **Barbara Simpson Ector** **August 15, 2024**

Inducted into Lambda in 2008, Barbara's work career spanned 44 years and included a teaching position with Memphis City Schools, management positions with AT&T and Southwestern Bell, vocational rehabilitation consulting positions with the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), and with Crawford and Company. Her career was most defined by 36 years with Cleveland City Schools where she served as a middle school social studies teacher, curriculum coordinator, Principal of the Denning Center, and Dean of Students/Vice Principal at Cleveland High School. Her leadership, compassion, and dedication to the success of every student were evident in all that she did.

Barbara's educational achievements included Bachelor's and Master of Science Degrees from George Peabody College for Teachers of Vanderbilt University and an Educational Specialist Degree in Educational Administration from Lincoln Memorial University. Her accolades and awards include: Building Level Teacher of the Year for

1991, 1997, 2003, 2004, and 2007; Nominated for Walt Disney Teacher of the Year in 2002 and 2003; Cleveland City Schools system level Teacher of the Year for grades 5-8, 2006/2007; one of three in the nation to receive National Civic Educator of the Year 2007; NAACP John H. Peterson Teacher of the Year 2007; Tennessee Middle School Social Studies Teacher of the Year 2008; National Middle School Social Studies Teacher of the Year 2008/2009; and East Tennessee Assistant Principal of the Year 2020 by the Tennessee Association of Secondary School Principals.

### **Leona F. Head** **July 27, 2024**

Leona, a charter member of Beta Upsilon, was inducted in 1976. She was an active, committed, and conscientious member in service to her local chapter. Her love for children was demonstrated in her professional career as an elementary teacher. Throughout her 31 years of teaching, she was honored to receive the Teacher of the Year award in 1971 and 1985.