

2013-2014 Chapter Service Projects

Personal Growth and Services

Educational Excellence Committee (EEC)

Chris Wall, State Representative

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ALPHA DELTA - Janet Conley, President - The ladies of Alpha Delta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma made cash contributions to be donated to an area high school for lunch money assistance for students. This money was taken to Independence High School and is being used for students who need financial assistance. Students who struggle to pay for reduced and full-priced breakfasts and lunches are the target group. The \$125 donation has already had a huge impact. Since regulations do not allow students to "charge" food costs, students would not be able to eat without the availability of these funds. Equally important, this project saves the students the embarrassment of not being able to eat due to a lack of money.

ALPHA IOTA - Claire Craig, President - "Two Can Read" is a program Alpha Iota chapter implemented to get books in the hands of all 3 and 4 year old children in our county. We go into all public and private preschool facilities and do a blitz. We read a book to the students and give them a book, a flyer, and a milk chug. Students are encouraged to collect change in their milk chug and take it to the library for a new book. The children's librarian helps us distribute the books. We fund this program through DKG members, School Business Partnerships, School PTA's and an auction.

ALPHA KAPPA - Patty Newsom, President - Each April, our chapter partners with the community of Starkville and MSU and we volunteer to help facilitate the annual Cotton District Arts Festival to promote the arts in our area. Chapter members volunteer their time and energy by serving in varieties of ways, such as registering vendors, setting up booths for area artisans to promote and sell their creations, serving as guides at information booths, providing refreshments at hospitality booths, assisting setting up or disassembling stages for musical performances and so forth

ALPHA PHI - Jennie Pegg, President - Our chapter supported "The Desk Project" financially and with a program. This group, from our local area, raises money to build school desks in Ghana.

ALPHA PSI - Angie Quinn, President - Alpha Psi members brought in coats, scarves, and gloves for our December meeting. Personal Growth and Services chairperson, Martha Kent and Alpha Psi member, Elizabeth Pullam delivered these items to Dr. Howell who headed up

the "Drive for Coats" in Tippah County. Also, books for children were distributed to New Albany Internal Medicine and Pediatric Clinic and the New Albany Children's Clinic.

ALPHA SIGMA - Laura Little, President - The Alpha Sigma Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International decided to make our annual service project about promoting literacy. We supported the Early Childhood Books program at our local hospital. The hospital distributes book to new mothers to encourage them to read to their babies. Our members believe that providing books for children and their mothers is an excellent way to introduce an interest in reading at an early age.

ETA - Dorie Kisner, President - The Delta Kappa Gamma Society Eta Chapter's annual service project for 2013-2014 was to contribute items to the Tupelo School District ECEC (Early Childhood Education Center). Due to recent state and national initiatives to promote Early Childhood Education, our chapter elected to purchase iTunes cards to aid in expanding the technology education program at ECEC. iTunes cards were purchased in \$10 increments and we were able to provide one to each of the 16 teachers at ECEC.

IOTA - Sherrye Williams, President - For this biennium, Iota Chapter had two projects. The first one mentored early-career educators and the second project supported reading and math literacy in area elementary schools. Both projects have addressed significant areas of need in our chapter area.

Early-career educators were welcomed to the new school year in August/September of 2012 and 2013 with Teacher Happy Gifts. These gifts were brought to the first and second chapter meetings of the year by members; then dispersed to early-career educators in area schools, public, private, and parochial by Iota members. Early-career educators received a variety of items in the happy: copy paper, pens/pencils/colors, and other classroom needs, gift cards, devotional books, or personal items such as bath salts and food items. In our area we had a significant number of *Teach for America* educators, who are not only new educators but also new to the area. The chapter received notes from these TFA's expressing appreciation for the gifts. The chapter had invited these educators to chapter programs.

Our "Books for Schools" project gave reading and math literature books to two area elementary schools. The chapter designated the schools by a voting at the February meeting the past two years. All public, private, and parochial schools were included in the voting, rotating between schools in the city and in the county. The school librarian selected the books that were purchased by the chapter with funds raised at our chapter's annual Holiday Auction.

UPSILON - Debora Wilkinson, President - Upsilon Chapter's Service Project is providing books for school libraries in the counties where our chapters are located. We choose one school in each county and provide money or purchase books to go in the school library. The books are bought to provide a wide variety of choices for the students to read. Many times, the books are used in the Accelerated Reader or Scholastic Reading Counts Program.

ALPHA CHI - Tracey Crawford, President - Alpha Chi worked with Simpson County Christian Job Corps for one of our 2013-14 Chapter Service Projects. We collected and donated lightly used and new women's attire and accessories that would be appropriate for job interviews and new jobs as they transition into the workforce. We also donated "blessing bags" for students which contain personal hygiene products such as shampoo, toothpaste, facial products, bodywash, etc. to Mrs. Jennifer Parker at Magee High School.

BETA - Ruthie Stevenson, President - Beta Chapter has already participated in a Dr. Seuss reading activity at an elementary school in the Clinton Public School District. In March, the chapter will again make dresses for girls in Africa. We did the project last year, and it was so successful, we decided to do it again this year. This is in line with our Schools for Africa project.

BETA ALPHA - Betty Jo Mahaffey - Beta Alpha Chapter will put together a little gift for each first year teacher in our district. As veteran teachers, we wanted to do something to let these new teachers know that they have our support. Members will deliver these "happies" with an encouraging hand-written note for each new teacher to various schools within our school district which have first year teachers. As this is something we will do in the next few months, we do not have a photo of the project.

CHI - Tiffany Brantley, President - Our chapter donates yearly magazines to our local children's shelter. We have been able to provide many children with such magazines and project based materials as: Highlights, National Geographic for Children and Ranger Rick.

GAMMA - Janet Berg, President - In an effort to welcome educators who are new to teaching and new to Lauderdale County School District (LCSD), Gamma Chapter members constructed and distributed a special WELCOME TO LCSD 2013-2014 planner calendar. The calendar includes a 1 page "Year at a Glance" calendar, attractive month pages for notes and planning, and inspirational quotes. The planner also included information about The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International—complete with the 7 Purposes, Mission Statement, and contact information for those interested in learning more about membership in Gamma Chapter.

PI - Chris Wall, President - Pi Chapter has chosen to support a local program this year for our project. The Rankin County Juvenile Justice Center has a program called Project CHANCE (Community Helping Adolescents Navigate Challenging Environments) which needs support. Project CHANCE provides treatment, individual and family counseling, in conjunction with promoting accountability by requiring regular drug testing and meetings with the Court for juveniles brought before the Youth Court on substance abuse-related charges. Project CHANCE supports graduates of the program and guides them in opportunities to grow into responsible, productive members of the community.

Though they were funded through a grant through the Mississippi Supreme Court they have needs that are not being met. The project provides incentives that are earned by those in the program. These incentives were not built into the grant. Funding has to be found to support this part of the program. Pi Chapter helped develop funds for Project CHANCE. At our September, October and January meetings, Pi Chapter members were able to purchase raffle tickets in a "silent" raffle. Raffle items are contributed by chapter members. Pi Chapter has fundraised over \$300 to date and has an additional fundraising opportunity before the end of the year. Our goal for 2013-14 is match or exceed our last year's monetary donation to Project CHANCE.

TAU - Elizabeth Mahaffey, President - Our chapter has included service in our mentor project. We are mentoring a first year teacher at Raymond Elementary School. We visited with the teacher, took her school supplies, and provided a check for \$100 for her to purchase additional supplies. Several members also assisted with a holiday party and the chapter provided part of the refreshments.

THETA - Norma Hammill, President - Chapter members collecting books to be distributed to new parents at King's Daughters Medical Center. The books were collected at the December Meeting. Approximately 100 books were collected books were delivered to the hospital and distributed by hospital personnel to new parents. \$40 was donated to World Fellowship Fund. To promote retention of early career educators, members donated school supplies that were compiled in gift bags and delivered to teachers in the schools of Theta members. A chapter member donated two hours each week to tutor at Doll House Ministries. The tutoring helped to prepare the young women for taking the GED Exam.

ALPHA ALPHA - Glenda Hartfield, President - Alpha Alpha Chapter, one of the sister chapters which includes, Forrest, George, Greene, and Perry counties, has chosen a priority service project to assist in purchasing playground equipment for a local elementary school. An active member of our chapter, Jennifer Smith, teaches special education in the Oak Grove School System. Her class of autistic students could benefit from playground equipment and Alpha Alpha has chosen to assist Ms. Smith. Although the chapter has

recently voted to take on this project, interest is growing and through personal donations, chapter contributions, and future activities such as silent auctions, our chapter will continue to assist these children and meet our goal.

ALPHA BETA - Bettie Fore, President - We provide school supplies for the children at the local Domestic Abuse Center. At each meeting we contribute supplies for the everyday needs of the people living at the center. Each member has a needs list and will contribute what she feels she can. A member will contact the office and meet a representative at the library with the supplies. We are not allowed to take pictures.

ALPHA GAMMA - Allison Downing, President - The Alpha Gamma Service Project 2013-14 was held during the September 21 meeting. Mrs. Ann McCullen, Director of Edwards Street Ministries, shared information on their activities and opportunities. A video was presented highlighting their food pantry, the various service organizations who meet regularly at their Fellowship Center, and ongoing volunteer work. Although the ministry began in order to serve tutoring and recreational needs of community residents, future endeavors include expanding the walking trail and providing medical and dental needs. Alpha Gamma members proudly contributed much needed items for their Food Pantry which provides for more than 1,000 families each month.

ALPHA LAMBDA - Joanna Alston, President - Members collected used eyeglasses and cases for donations to the Lions Club for use by those who are in need. This project was in addition to our ongoing service to early career educators - one-on-one mentoring, encouragement, etc.

ALPHA NU - Sybil Wilner, President - Many of Alpha Nu members volunteered as proctors for the Common Core Test in local area schools. Also, several members served as judges for the book fairs and local science fairs and the Region VI Science Fair.

ALPHA OMEGA - Shelley Putnam, President - Project one: At Christmas our chapter worked with the public library to collect and distribute books to children in our community. This will be an on-going project. Excess books will be distributed to children at Easter. Project two: Our chapter has voted to mentor and support new teachers in our area. We will offer support and provide notes of encouragement and baskets of supplies during stressful times of the year.

ALPHA OMICRON - Karen Collins, President - Alpha Omicron collected items for the Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital in Jackson, Mississippi, our state's only children's hospital. Each member donated toys, crayons, coloring books, books, educational games, snacks, etc. Seven packed boxes were donated and delivered to the hospital. The project was done in conjunction with a Blair El Batson Day at the park in Natchez.

ALPHA THETA - Ganeath Brewer, President - Alpha Theta donated items to the "Excel by 5" house. Books were donated for their library and culinary supplies for the kitchen. "Excel by 5" is a community-based program designed for the overall well-being for children by age 5. It sets forth a variety of standards involving parent participation, child care, and health to help communities focus on young children and their families. The goal of this program is that all children are prepared to learn when they start school at age five.

ALPHA UPSILON - Kathleen Drummond, President - Every year our chapter collects teacher materials for new teachers in our districts represented by our chapter members. This year we were able to create five new teacher baskets. Two baskets were taken to West Elementary in Gulfport (a kindergarten and fourth grade teachers). One basket was delivered to Hancock Vocational Career School and two to the Bay Waveland School District. We received three thank you notes for the materials.

DELTA - Pam Barnes, President - Delta participated in three (3) service projects for our local community: 1. Sent cards and small gifts to new teachers. 2. Collected canned food for homeless shelter. 3. Conducted auction to raise monies for scholarships.

OMEGA - Cheryl McGinnis, President - Omega helped member, Pam Smith, with a project at Lawrence County High School. Ms. Smith has organized an Art Club and Omega purchased art supplies for the students to use. Budget cuts took art out of schools, so Omega applauds Pam's efforts in the area of Art!

PSI - Harvis Smith, President - Psi Chapter chose as our service project to collect books and totes for the local children's shelter. Many of these children leave home with very few belongings and nothing to carry them in but a plastic bag. Psi chapter donated books, totes/bookbags to the shelter. Being away from home is disturbing for children and losing themselves in a book for any period of time brings comfort and an escape from their problems if even for a few minutes.

RHO - Carmen Renay Zumbro, President - BOOKS for PRESCHOOLERS - Members of Rho Chapter donated books for preschool students at Franklin County Head Start Center. One-hundred paperback books were donated to the Center to be given to individual students. Thirty hard cover books were donated to the classroom libraries at the Head Start Center. **TEACHERS 2 TEACHERS** - Members of Rho Chapter donated teacher supplies to fill two baskets valued at \$40 each to give to two new teachers in the Franklin County School System. We donated a Wal-Mart gift card as a door prize for the Convocation of the 2013-2014 School year of Franklin County School District. **SCHOOLS FOR AFRICA** - Rho Chapter donated \$100 to the Schools for Africa project.

SIGMA- Kathryn Foxworth, President - Sigma Chapter members have participated in the following services this year: Members provided money to pay for the GED test for students unable to pay for the test, after they had completed the program. Members also provided money to help buy Christmas presents for children of battered women. Members collected food for our local food bank. Members gave a back to school shower for new teachers in our area who are potential new member.

Special Thanks and Appreciation goes to all Chapter Personal Growth and Service Representatives and Chairpersons for their efforts with the development and implementation of these outstanding service projects. I know that your presidents are very proud of you and grateful for the motivation, support and encouragement you provided to meet the goal set by each chapter to serve and educate children and adults in your local communities. Thank you!

Chris B. Wall