



From A to Z *Alpha Zeta Chapter*

Volume 60 , Issue 1
July 2015

Eta State
North Carolina

Region VIII
Mecklenburg and Union Counties

President's Message

I hope everyone is having a relaxing and enjoyable summer. Seems like the days pass much faster than I would like for them to do! One of the best adventures we did this summer was to take our granddaughter on a week long trip to Disney World (with her mother of course)! After not seeing Disney for 30 years the magic was special for me as well as through the eyes of a 5 year old. Those memories will be treasured for a long time.

Our next exciting moment will happen sometime the end of July or the beginning of August. We are expecting the birth of our 3rd grandchild. You can imagine the excitement our family will have when this little girl joins our family.

Our Alpha Zeta family is also growing. We want to welcome Linda Klein, Tracy Strickland, and Davida Zike to our chapter. They were initiated in April. Look for their bio information in this newsletter. We look forward to having them join us!

It was very sad to receive news that one of our members, Mary Kania, that was initiated in April died suddenly. Her obituary information is included in this newsletter. We certainly want to continue to pray for her family.

The Eta State annual convention was held in Chapel Hill on April 24-26. Our chapter received several impressive awards. Our chapter is recognized as a Distinctive Chapter. This is due to all the participation and hard work each chapter member contributes to Alpha Zeta. Thanks for all you did to help us achieve this award.

We were also recognized for the Newsletter Excellence Award. Thanks so much to Deb Christensen for gathering information and providing us with our award winning newsletter. Please let Deb know how much we appreciate all she does to get us a top quality newsletter!

Our chapter received the Website Participation Award. At the convention we were also recognized for being a chapter that is now certified at the state level. Again, thanks to Deb for all the work she has done to get our website certified.

The Executive Board and Committee Chairs are scheduled to meet at my house on Saturday, July 25 at 2:00. This will only change if our baby decides to arrive early. I will send an email to remind you of this meeting soon.

I look forward to our meetings this year and all the wonderful work we will accomplish! Enjoy the remainder of your summer!

Wanda Allen



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Send in your Alpha Zeta News!

Please email any information you'd like to share with your sisters—for example; weddings, births, graduations, celebrations, conferences attended, special recognitions, etc. Please email your information to Deb at the email listed above. Thank you!!

Inside this issue:

Upcoming Events	2
Tech Tip	3
Eta State Message	3
AZ Birthdays	3
New Initiates Bios	4
New Initiate Bio	5
Member News	6



Mission Statement

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

Elevator Speech

Delta Kappa Gamma is an international honor society of women educators, which encourages and supports professional growth through legislative efforts, conferences, workshops, and offers scholarships to members and future educators.

Theme

“Embracing Our Vision – Designing Our Future”

Voices of Influence Empowering North Carolina Women Educators “Together, We Are Stronger—Committing, Collaborating, Celebrating”

Page 2

Upcoming Events

July 15-18, 2015 – Southeast Regional Conference – Savannah, GA

<https://www.dkg.org/content/2015-southeast-regional-conference>

July 25, 2015—Executive Board Meeting, 2:00 pm

September 1, 2015—Deadline for [Cornet Awards](#)

September 12, 2015—Executive Board meeting in Elon; bring 100 Challenge pledge checks to meeting

October 3, 2015—Alpha Zeta Meeting, 10:00 am, location to be announced

December 5, 2015—Alpha Zeta Meeting, 10:00 am, location to be announced

February 6, 2015—Alpha Zeta Meeting, 10:00 am, location to be announced

April 22 - 24, 2016 — Eta State Convention, Winston-Salem, NC (Region IX)

April 2, 2015—Alpha Zeta Meeting, 10:00 am, location to be announced

Collecting 100 Challenge Pledges

Eta State members generously made 1,130 pledges totaling \$17,020 during the 100 Challenge. The Foundation expresses sincere gratitude to everyone who believed in the dream.

Chapters will collect the money pledged from members along with any additional donations. Chapter presidents are encouraged to bring collected donations to the Elon Executive Board meeting, September 12, or **mail in bulk** to Betty Marshall, Foundation Treasurer, 6212 Dresden Lane Raleigh, NC 27612.

A current list of pledges is available from **Connie Savell**, mcdpm59@gmail.com.

Make individual checks payable to: The North Carolina Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation

Thank you for supporting The 100 Challenge!

New DKG Year Began July 1

Congratulations to chapter presidents on completing your first year in office and to the new Eta State officers whose terms began July 1. You may contact the new officers at the following email addresses:

President—**Sheila Groves**, svangroves@aol.com

1st Vice President—**Connie Savell**, mcdpm59@gmail.com

2nd Vice President—**Sharon Frazier**, jpfskf@aol.com

Secretary—**Hilda Parlér**, hildagammatau@earthlink.net

Tech Tip



“ ’Twas the first week of summer and all through the land Not a Mom was still signing folders, not even a Dad. The backpacks were slung in the garage without care In hopes that some Clean Out Fairy soon would be there. The children were nestled (super late) in their beds While visions of NO HOMEWORK danced in their heads. Mama in her yoga pants and I in my jorts Are scheduling summer playdates, vacations, and sports. When out in the playroom there arose such a clatter We yelled (from the couch) to see what was the matter. The children were arguing, restless, and I was floored To hear the young cherubs declare: I’M BORED.”

So begins Barnes and Noble’s list of “10 Things to Do With Your Kids This Summer.” The list says 10 but within each one, there’s usually more than one fun suggestion, for different ages. Written with as much humor as the opening parody, the list is sure to entertain, in addition to giving you good ideas for what to do with the kids when school is out. Examples of the “things to do” include letting the kids make movies with their smart phones and throwing a “fancy” brunch for the kids and their friends. It’s a fun read and an idea starter. Enjoy the summer! <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/blog/10-things-to-do-with-your-kids-this-summer/>

Eta State President Sheila’s Message

I am honored to be your Eta State President. I stand on the strong shoulders of all my NC sisters who encouraged, inspired, and even gave me a little push from time to time. I’m delighted to serve along with First Vice-President Connie Savell, Second Vice-President Sharon Frazier, and Secretary Hilda Parler. A new biennium! A new adventure!

It’s exciting to be a NC Delta Kappa Gamma member today. I am proud to belong to an organization that values the contributions of women in all roles of society, an organization that promotes self-knowledge and awareness, an organization that encourages networking and genuine fellowship.

I challenge you to imagine what we can do as active members of a community seeking solutions to problems that hinder the growth of positive educational programs.

I challenge you to inspire others to join us in the work that will support the wellbeing of our children, the advancement of our schools, and the growth of women leaders.

I challenge you to ignite a passion for programs and initiatives that will meet the goals of Delta Kappa Gamma and keep us forward moving ever!

Let’s ...Create the future! Shelia Read the entire message online: <http://www.deltakappagamma.org/NC/Presidents%20page.htm>

Happy Birthday!

July		August		September	
2	Patricia Perkoski	7	Jean Davis	2	Frankie Ritch
10	Janie Collins	16	Sylvia Little-Sweat	5	Judy Cline
20	Diane Maye	25	Dr. Rachel Clarke	5	Alice Coleman
22	Gladys Kerr			15	Sarah Harrison-Burns



Introducing Linda Klein



For 2.5 years I attended Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio, hometown of John & Annie Glenn. I finished my B.S.Ed. at Kent State University, Kent, Ohio in 1970, the year of the shootings on campus. My teaching career started in North Royalton, Ohio where I taught 3rd & 4th grades at Royal View Elementary. While there, I helped develop and write curriculum for a nature center for our schools. After seven years teaching, I decided to be a "stay-at-home mom" with my two boys, Josh and Ben. It was very difficult to get back into teaching after being out of education a number of years. So I was a substitute teacher in several school systems in and around Akron, Ohio for 4 years. At this point, I went into the business world, working for a local food service company & eventually a national company, starting as an administrative assistant and ending as an assistant buyer.

In 1999 my husband, Bruce, took a job in Charlotte, NC so we could be closer to family. I followed in 2001 after staying in Ohio to sell our home. I was hired by Tommy Wall at Waxhaw Elementary School that year to teach 5th grade. In the following years I also taught 3rd and 4th grades. During this time I completed my National Board Certified Teacher assessments. I retired in 2014 after teaching at Waxhaw 13 years.

My husband and I live in Matthews, NC. I sing alto in our church choir and hope to play the clarinet in our praise ensemble next year. We just finished remodeling our kitchen which included laying a bamboo floor through three rooms. Reading, quilting, sewing, crafting, and decorating are some of my favorite activities.

Our two sons, daughter-in-laws, and grandchildren (ages 16, 3, & 1) live in Cleveland, Ohio. We travel north to see them as often as possible. Our last trip was in June to watch our oldest granddaughter, Kaz, dance ballet in her recital. Kaz is currently making her annual visit with us here in NC. Over the July 4th weekend we travelled to Lake Hartwell in Fair Play, SC for a special family gathering at my in-laws.

Introducing Tracy Strickland



I am an Assistant Principal for Union County Public Schools and have been for five years. Before that, I spent 17 years teaching high school Spanish. I thought about moving into administration for a long time, but couldn't imagine giving up teaching. Then, one of the Assistant Principals that I worked for showed me by example that administrators continue to be teachers. I teach students all types of lessons. I even get to teach Spanish on occasion, dropping into the classroom and tutoring before and after school. Serving in administration has been an intense and rewarding growing experience. On those days in which I miss the classroom terribly, I simply duck into a classroom and begin to take part. I guess – once a teacher, always a teacher.

My husband, Steve, and I have been married 24 years and have two wonderful sons. Vassar, our oldest, is finishing Advanced Individual Training with the U.S. Army this summer. He is a member of that North Carolina Army National Guard and will continue at North Greenville University in the Fall. Our youngest son, Mathis, is in the 11th grade at Piedmont High School.

I grew up in Venezuela, South America as the daughter of missionaries. It was providential for me to be there learning Spanish on a daily basis since that's the direction that I took into education. In Union County, I've had many opportunities to use my Spanish beyond the classroom as I've worked with students and their families. It has opened a broader world.

Introducing Davida Zike



I was born and raised in southern West Virginia. After attending college for two years, I joined the Army and became a Military Intelligence Analyst. I served my country for 20 years, and retired on January 1, 2000. While in the military, I met and married my husband, Noel. We have been married for 34 years, and have three daughters, Meagan, Caitlin, and Brianna. I also have a grandson named Mathieu.

I spent more than half of the time I served in the military in Germany. I lived in Ansbach, Berlin, and Augsburg. While stationed in Germany, I attended University of Maryland University College and earned an undergraduate degree in Psychology. I received post baccalaureate training in Emotional and Behavioral Disorders, and a master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, Georgia. I am a member of

Phi Kappa Phi and Kappa Delta Pi, and a Sigma Sigma Sigma alumna.

What free time I have is spent bird watching and reading. My favorite authors are James Patterson and Stephen King.

I love teaching and working with children who have emotional and/or behavioral challenges. Changing the lives of children in need is a passion, and I love my profession.

Remembering Mary Kania



Obituary for Mary Dunn Kania

Mrs. Mary Kania of Indian Trail passed away on Monday June 1 at her home.

Visitation will be Thursday June 4 from 7 - 9PM at Heritage Funeral Home in Indian Trail, NC. Mass of Christian burial will be Friday, June 5 at 2PM at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Charlotte, NC, with interment to follow at Sunset Memory Gardens in Mint Hill, NC.

Mrs. Kania was born on October 21, 1941 in Philadelphia, PA, daughter of Nathaniel and Mary Dunn. She was preceded in death by her husband of 43 years, Edward M. Kania.

Survivors include her sons: Edward A. Kania and his wife Donna of Davidson, Joseph J. Kania and his wife Shannon of Monroe, and Steven M. Kania and his wife Michelle of Matthews, brother Nathaniel “Dan” Dunn and his wife Barbara of Philadelphia, grandchildren: Kristina Kania, Samantha Ramlal and her husband Gairy, Heather Kania, Megan Kania, Ashley Kania, Kayla Kania, Katie Kania, Hannah Babinsky and D.J. Babinsky, and a great-granddaughter Maliha Ramlal.

Mary worked at Indian Trail Elementary School for over 30 years and found joy in working with several generations of students, faculty and staff. She also enjoyed her service to Loaves and Fishes and St. John Neumann Church.

Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the American Heart Association or American Cancer Society.

Arrangements for the family are in the care of Heritage Funeral Home, 4431 Old Monroe Road, Indian Trail, NC 28079. Online condolences may be expressed at www.heritagecares.com

Member News

Deb Christensen – Assessed Portfolio entries and Field test entries for National Board Teacher Certification with Susan Kuenzel and Tracy Bell, two DKG members from other chapters. She plans a trip to Central NY to visit family and a trip to Myrtle Beach before the summer is over.

Dr. Rachel Clarke - I'm off to Long Beach CA to do my NC state duties at the NAESP National Conference

Frances Davis finished an interim position at Nation Ford and is now enjoying attending several book clubs this summer.

April Dawkins - her new address is 27 Summerlea Ln, Columbia SC 29203. She attended the ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco - June 25-29.

Grace Faris - I visited Arlington, Virginia June 11 through 14. I visited family and two amazing sites while there. I toured the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and the Franciscan Monastery. The Pope will visit the Basilica this September.

Gladys McCain Kerr - My only grandchild, McCain Kerr, graduated from Union Academy. He will be attending UNC CHAPEL HILL. This week he is in London with some of the Honors College Students. Personally, I am grateful the surgeon says he thinks he got all the cancer on my nose. I have been a big mess all summer. I am feeling and looking some better. Pray for rain for my corn crop!

Kim Schroeder became "Dr. Schroeder"!!!!!! Congrats!!!!

Tommie Wall is working with an intern at the Museum of the Waxhaws and working on a welcome home program for the Vietnam Service Veterans that will be held at the Museum of the Waxhaws on Saturday, October 3, 2015.

Important Websites

DKG-www.dkg.org

Eta State-www.deltakappagamma.org/NC

Alpha Zeta-www.alphazetanc.weebly.com

End Robo Calls!

Please sign the petition at www.endrobocalls.org and email the request to friends. I read about this in August Consumer Reports, page 8. Our Attorney General has said there is nothing he can do. Together we can!

Thanks, Frankie Ritch

The DKG App was just redesigned. Downloads are available for iPhones and Android devices. It's a great update—check it out today!

In the News

[NC Appeals Court says lawmakers' attempt to end teacher tenure is unconstitutional](#)

[Senate budget ends health retirement benefits for future teachers and state employees](#)

[Veteran teachers would get little or no raise in proposed NC budget](#)

[NC Senate unveils education budget that guts teacher assistants, rewards less experienced teachers](#)

LEROY (Leadership Experiences Relevant to Others and Yourself)

Look out SERC!
I am on my way to Savannah. I hope many of my Eta State girl friends will go with me.



LEROY the Leadership Guy